

Microcopy No. T-620

SELECTED RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF THE MINT
RELATING TO THE BUFFALO NICKEL

(Record Group 104)



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Washington: 1961

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

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NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

Mr Geo. F. Roberts
Director of the Mint

Dear Mr Roberts.

The models for the five
cent piece have been
finished, and reduced in
several heights, of relief,
and therefore I am ready
to come and explain,
and have explained, to me,

What is necessary, and
to talk over some changes
that I now think, since seeing
the reductions, would prove
advantageous.

Will Secretary MacVeagh
be in Washington. He
asked me to let him
know when I came on.

Faithfully yours

J. E. Rose

June 26/12

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17 1910

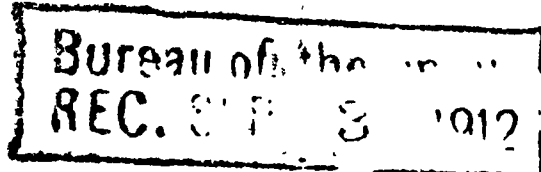
DANIEL H. BURNHAM, CHAIRMAN
 FREDERICK LAW OLMTED FRANCIS D. MILLET
 THOMAS HASTINGS CASS GILBERT
 DANIEL C. FRENCH CHARLES MOORE
 COL. SPENCER COSBY, U.S.A. SECRETARY

11 East 24th Street, New York.
 August 28, 1912.

Hon. Franklin MacVeagh,

Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington, D. C.



My dear Mr. MacVeagh:

I have just received a letter from Mr. Edwin H. Blashfield of the Commission of Fine Arts asking me to look over some models for the new five cent piece made by Mr. Fraser and to express to you my opinion of them. It gives me great pleasure to say that they impress me most favorably. The use of the buffalo and the Indian as the insignia on the coin is admirable in itself and the modeling is done with rare skill and beauty. I wish it were possible that the coin could be struck with the deeper relief which Mr. Fraser has shown in some of the models he brought with him, but he tells me that some practical objections are raised by your department.

It gives me very great pleasure to express to you my admiration for the work Mr. Fraser has done and congratulate you on the step you are taking in securing really artistic coins.

I remain

Sincerely yours,

MEDALLIC ART CO.

34 EAST 28TH STREET

REDUCTIONS & ENLARGEMENTS

FROM

SCULPTORS MODELS

OF

STATUARY AND BAS RELIEFS

DIES CUT & MEDALS STRUCK

CASTINGS AND ELECTROTYPES IN ALL METALS

NEW YORK,

Dec. 12, 1912.

TELEPHONE, MADISON SQUARE 8279

Mr. George E. Roberts,

Director of U. S. Mint,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

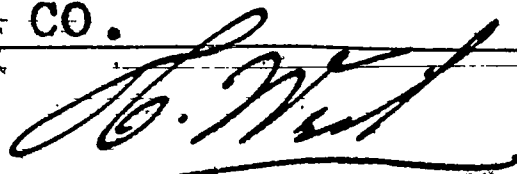
At Mr. Fraser's request we hereby quote you prices for making steel hubs, obverse and reverse of the new nickel, from models furnished us by Mr. J. E. Fraser,

Each side ----- \$100.00

Awaiting your reply, we remain.

Very truly yours,

MEDALLIC ART CO.



24
48
72

REC. JUN 14 1911

305310

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

June 13, 1911

Mr. George E. Roberts
Director, U.S. Mint
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The Belgian coin which you admired so much is, I believe, in circulation at the present time; I will get one for you and send it on.

I think your idea of the Lincoln head is a splendid one and I shall be very glad to make you some sketches as soon as possible and let you see them. I think they should be reduced to the actual size of the coin; otherwise we will not be really able to judge them, even in the sketch period. I will have that done here, where I can watch the process.

I have numerous sketches underway, some of which I hope may be of value.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. W. B. Hase". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "Yours truly,".

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY,

To Mr. Roberts:

This note

from Mr. Thayer came the
other day and very
interest you. I have
never acknowledged it
and so should be glad

if you would bring it
around when you come
after

Assistant Secretary.

Dear Fraser.

Nov 28 1905

I neglected to tell you that at any time you
 wished to come up to make at that point
 of one that you are doing - you know we will
 always be glad to have you at the house - and
 I will be glad to sit - I am very much
 interested in your ideas ~~of~~ and am confident
 of the Pygmy is one of the most ideas
 and arrangements of a medal I have
 ever seen. You affectionately
 AS B.

365310

305310

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

July 20, 1911

Dear Mr. Andrew:

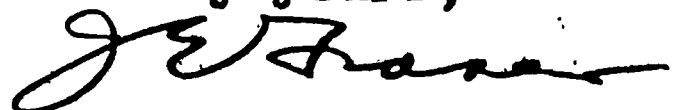
You will find enclosed a photograph of Saint-Gaudens' letter, concerning which I spoke to you. It may be of no value but I will leave it to your discretion to use ~~it~~ as you like.

I am having some electro plates made of the small sketches and I will send them on to you when they are completed.

In reference to competition, I think the great trouble is that you may have numbers of sketches in the competition one of which you choose and, if I'm not mistaken, you will be forced to stick very closely to that design, even though it might not be quite up to what you would want. Whereas, working with a competent man, there would be no doubt that a great many designs would be made; in fact, you would go on working till something of real merit was produced. You may say, if you like, that I would be perfectly willing to satisfy the Art Commission Mr. MacVeagh spoke of.

I will send you a few photographs of my work provided you wish to use them for reference.

Sincerely yours,



COPY.

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

August 1, 1911

*Original to Mr. R
Oct 13/1911*

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I am very sorry that I happened to be away from New York the day you called; I would like to have shown you some of the various things I am doing.

When you say "the new models" do you mean the designs for the nickel? I have the sketches which I took to Washington in a better condition than they were then; they are now electro-plates. I will send you some copies.

It's very kind of you to suggest paying my expenses in regard to the work I have done; but I don't feel that you ought to trouble too much in that direction. I am certain you wanted me to do this work and it will be no fault of yourself or Dr. Andrew if I do not receive it.

I myself feel most confident over the results which I attained through doing the sketches; I know of no coins which were studied in just this manner, and I feel sure that is the only way of arriving at satisfactory results.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) J. W. Fraser,

Mr. George E. Roberts

365310
COPY.

New York City
3 Macdougall Alley

September 19, 1911.

Hon. Franklin MacVeagh,
The Secretary
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Secretary:

Although I realize that no definite commission has been given me in regard to the designs for the new coins, I have become so much interested in the sketches that I have pushed them a little farther and now they are in the shape of electrotypes which I should like to submit for your consideration. Of course, this means that they are still merely sketches and not finished products, but I have had them reduced and made into their present form for the purpose of showing exactly what I would wish done, provided I finished them.

At present, they are the size of the penny but they could easily be enlarged to any size desired. The idea of the Indian and the buffalo on the same coin is, without doubt, purely American and seems to be singularly appropriate to have on one of our national coins. You will see that the Indian is entirely different than any that has ever been used on a coin. Most of the heads have been Caucasians with an Indian head-dress; in this case I have avoided using the war-bonnet and have made a purely Indian type. Therefore, I should like to ask whether or not you would consider placing these designs on the new nickel.

I have also carried the Lincoln head farther, not only because I was personally interested in it, but because Mr. Roberts has rather

encouraged the idea of my doing so.

Possibly you will be interested in knowing that the Italian Government has purchased a collection of my medals for its National Museum in Rome. The Belgian Government obtained a somewhat similar collection of my work last year.

Believe me to be,

Yours very truly

J. W. Fraser

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

September 19, 1911

Hon. Franklin MacVeagh
The Secretary
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Secretary:

Although I realize that no definite commission has been given me in regard to the designs for the new coins, I have become so much interested in the sketches that I have pushed them a little farther and now they are in the shape of electrotypes which I should like to submit for your consideration. Of course, this means that they are still merely sketches and not finished products, but I have had them reduced and made into their present form for the purpose of showing exactly what I would wish done, provided I finished them.

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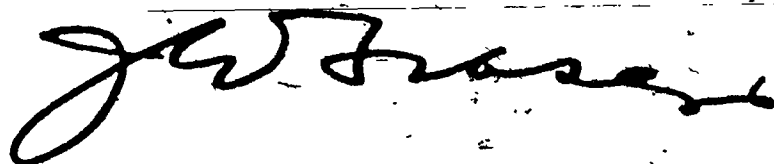
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Possibly you will be interested in knowing that the Italian Government has just purchased a collection of my medals for its National Museum in Rome. The Belgian Government obtained a somewhat similar collection of my work last year.

Believe me to be,

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. W. Fraser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

305310

194 N. WABASH AVENUE

Chicago, Ill.

January 20th, 1912.

Dear Mr. Roberts:-

Did you see Mr. Fraser, the medal-
list, when you were in New York, and if so, did he
throw you out bodily into McDougall's Alley, as a
result of the neglectful treatment he had received,
or did he invite you in to talk the matter over?

If you can find the time, would you
drop me a line and let me know how the matter now
stands, or would you ask Miss Kelly to do so?

Was any conclusion reached between
you and Mr. Fraser as to what he would do with the
inscriptions?

Very sincerely yours,

James Macleagh

Honorable George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D.C.

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

January 13, 1912.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I am now writing to Mr. J. W. Fraser in acknowledgment of the attached letter and apologizing for the fact that we have not heretofore been able to give the matter our careful consideration. I am also telling him that he may expect, within a day or two, to hear directly from you.

The sketches submitted by Mr. Fraser are in every way so satisfactory and he is a man who stands so high in his profession, that I am glad we all have agreed to let him continue with the matter without looking further or incurring additional delay. Will you, therefore, please write to him and tell him that the nickel five-cent piece is the coin for which we have been considering his

designs and the only one that is available at this time. Tell him that of the three sketches which he submitted we would like to use the sketch of the head of the Indian and the sketch of the buffalo, subject to adaptation; the head of the Indian to appear on the obverse and the figure of the buffalo on the reverse. Only such inscriptions as the law requires should, of course, go on the coin, in order not to mar its beauty and to avoid crowding.

Please state to Mr. Fraser exactly what the requirements and restrictions of the law are in this respect, and ask him to submit a completed model and to state his price.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin MacHugh

Hon. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint.

Bureau of the mint.
REC. JAN 29 1912

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

January 27, 1912

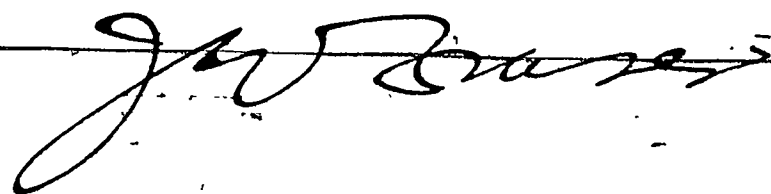
Dear Mr. Roberts:

18.
Your letter of January 17, asking me to complete the designs for the five cent piece contains my idea of what should be done in relation to the coins. I believe in placing as little lettering as possible on the coin, since the design will be just so much better for the fewer things it contains. I am very anxious to go on with the designs and make them as perfect as possible, then have them reduced to the nickel size, after which I believe it would be wise to confer with the Mint in Philadelphia. Possibly it would be better for me, before going to Washington, to complete the coins and have the reductions to bring with me.

I will let you know how the work goes on.

Respectfully yours,

Mr. George E. Roberts



305310

194 N. WABASH AVENUE

Chicago, February First,
Nineteen Twelve.

File

Dear Mr. Roberts:-

I started to send the enclosed letter to Mr. Fraser but after reading it over it occurred to me that perhaps I ought not to do so, lest in some way I should be "butting in". I will therefore submit it to you so that you can decide whether or not to let it go forward. Please do not hesitate in the least to hold it up in case there should be anything in it contrary to your wishes.

With kindest regards, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

James M. Keefe

Honorable George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Washington,
D.C.

*Recd 2/3/12
(no enclosed need
put this in file)*

365310

194 N. WABASH AVENUE
March Eighteenth,
Nineteen Twelve.
Chicago.

Ans'd 3-20-12

File

Bureau of the mint
REC: MAR 20 '12

Dear Mr. Broughton:-

Have you heard anything further in regard to the design for the new nickel five cent piece since I left Washington? If not, would you kindly include among my father's letters, one addressed to the proper authorities asking what has been done and how the matter is progressing?

With kindest regards, I

remain,

Very sincerely yours,

James MacTeagh

Mr. W. G. Broughton,
Treasury Department,
Washington,
D.C.



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON,

March 19, 1912.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

In the absence of Mr. Broughton
I opened the attached letter from Mr.
James MacVeagh inquiring as to any de-
velopments in regard to the design for
the new nickel five-cent piece. I am
writing to Mr. MacVeagh that I have
turned his letter to Mr. Broughton
over to you and that you will advise
him of any progress which has been
made since he last saw you.

Very sincerely yours,

Francis W. Taylor

Hon. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint.

Enclosure.

305310

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

July 5, 12

Mr Geo S. Roberts
Director of the Hunt

Dear Mr Roberts

Would Wednesday the
tenth of July be a day
on which you could see
me? I could come
on Monday but I must
be in New York on

Tuesday. so I thought
Wednesday would work
out to better advantage

Very truly yours
J. W. Draper

July 5th / 02

Bureau of the mint.
REC. 11-10 1912

305310

Bache, Okla., July 14, 1912.

Hon. Mr. MacVeagh, Secy. of U.S. Treas.,
Washington, D.C.,

Dear Sir:-

I shall take the liberty of expressing myself in reference to some matters that I may convey to you as well as others an opinion, hoping that my reasons for same are sufficient to permit me to make the experiment that I do. It appears evident to me that some matters about which I speak are rather delicate and I would that the circumstances did not exist which impel me to write as I do, never-the-less such is not the situation hence I take the actions I do without hesitation on my part.

Just here, now, I want to mention some matters that have happened within this state since, I might say, the past 2 and 1/4 years in the way that certain departments of the Federal Government has been managed and I shall also advise you as well as others what incidents in reference to some of my experiences it occurs to me these actions rather represent. Now, psychologist, tell us of a certain mental phase known as upper-perception, or that which brings to mind some previous knowledge. Sometime ago the Secretary of Interior appointed a Mr. Locke as Governor of the Choctaw Indian Tribes of this state and this governor I noticed in some papers had sometime ago carried on a war with other Indians at Hearts-horn, Okla. I met a Miss LeClairie Woodward of Durant, Okla. in 1907 who was going to school at Heartshorn, Okla. and this lady I shall say also is a Choctaw Indian and subsequent to this date we tried some to be sweethearts. I wrote her in a letter in the early part of 1909 using this expression "If satisfactory to marry write me and will come to Durant and speak to your folks as do not care to be guilty of stealing" and you will note that "Locke, jail, and theft" all associate. I was away in Arkansas during 1909 a good portion of the time transacting law business and during the time met a young lady from near Durant, Okla. and she and I carried on some correspondence and of course she asked me about my Durant girl and I replied to one of her letters in 1910 that my impressions were not favorable and while desired to treat any girl fair still rather go to Utah and have several wives and not be treated fair by one. Soon after this Judge Marshall from Utah held a term of court in McAlester, Oklahoma, so notice that "Locke, jail, theft and Marshall" all associate. Sometime in 1910 I mentioned to postmaster Clark of McAlester, Oklahoma about some figuring on some of my correspondence and he among other things said if mails were not handled correctly would put him behind the "Bars" and since the post office has been moved into a building owned by some Indian Lawyers there one of whose buildings has an Indian Statue within it so notice that "Locke, jail, theft, Marshall and bars" associate. I could mention other incidents that occurred about those times which evidently was taken from the thoughts of some of this correspondence. I have been disposed not to notice it as I had observed from some of the papers that the administration was influenced by Congressman McGuire of Pawnee, Oklahoma who about those times had divorced his wife who was in the real estate business and married an Indian, because I did not care to charge the administration matters in which interest had been taken because because of parties who I did not think at the time were acting as its friend.

I observe, now, recently that plans are under way or consideration to place an Indian head on the five cent piece and since these matters I have mentioned and others I have not mentioned have occurred I think I am warranted in the belief this thought may have been advanced as sequel to some of these previous incidents. If so it occurs to me although an humble citizen I am justified in making the request in allowing the coin to remain unchanged and especially of the design I have mentioned. If the friends of this girl will only think there can be no credit to her to be associated with this "Big Chief" "Chicago Outlaw" and "Base Ball" affairs; so far as I am concerned I so consider it myself no credit and as anyone knows such matters are forgotten in time especially if they are not apparent-perceived by reason of incidents that have tendency to bring them forward.

Government as a unit as I understand it is administered to individuals and such conduct by and through its chief officials should be done towards securing to each and every citizen his full enjoyment of happiness. If officials, either nation or state, conduct themselves in any particular case or under any individual circumstances in such a way as to refuse the highest enjoyment of the rights of "Pursuit of happiness" such conduct would naturally follow as to any number of citizen where conditions allowed. Those of us who will but reflect for the past few years can readily conceive that there seems to have constantly increased generally with the public among all classes a bad humor. It seems to me that such is the case and while I would that I could think it otherwise still honest observations impel me to make the statement that I do. Parties who suffer from these discontents do not make good citizens and without good citizens the administration of justice and general peace and prosperity are retarded, the influence of which destroy the high ideals of genuine patriotism, the surest guaranty of all good government.

Before I close now I will say that four years ago I voted for the present administration; at the time I was in business therefore did not take the time to do any work. I have since felt inclined that way although I must say some incidents have happened some of which I have mentioned that I felt was "Teaching my school" still I have been inclined to pass them never-the-less if such is going to continue then I must question such conduct to that extent as refuse a vote in November, provided health permits me to be at the election at the time. I should consider my reason sufficient because genuine sympathy for every citizen, however humble, is so much of the very essence of good government. I must refuse a vote where it occurs to me where such is not possessed or represented by the candidates. I will not write any more at present. I could go on and tell you several incidents connected with the "Nickles" and a bank account with American National Bank, McAlester, Okla. where I use to run an account for a business with which I was associated also some of which bank last named having bank at Durant, Okla. where this Indian girl lives, or rather "Use to be" girl but will not. Having been in business in that town from May 23rd 1906 until about March 1st 1909 I could go on and offer several reasons why it might be better in the course of time for the Republican party not to administer any of its branches of government or finances by reasons of any influence from there. I have only mentioned incidents I have which I hope explains my reasons to wish no change made in the nickle which I recently noticed proposed, a few days ago.

I beg to remain,

A humble citizen,

HFG

H. F. George

SUBJECT

New 5-Cent Piece

and 7-22-12

AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

15 DEY STREET.

JOHN J. CARTY,
CHIEF ENGINEER*file*

NEW YORK.

July 20, 1912.

Mr. George E. Roberts, Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

I have been informed that the government is planning to
issue a new 5-cent piece with the head of a buffalo impressed upon
one side.

Will you please let me know if this is true, and if a
new coin is to be issued, whether any change is contemplated in
the diameter and thickness as compared with the standard 5-cent
piece.

Yours truly,

J. J. Carty
Chief Engineer.

GKT:VS

File

Bureau of the mint.
NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGALL
RECEIVED JUL 24 1912

Cured 7-26-12

Dear Mr Roberts

Mr French wrote
a letter to Mr MacVeagh
several days ago. Did
it arrive? Mr Hastings
is away in Europe
so I could not get him
to write. Mr French
didn't think it necessary

to have any other letters.

What do you think about
it?

I am having other
reductions made so as
to be well fitted the next
time I come to Washington.

Very sincerely yours

JW Hayes

DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH
GLENDALE
MASSACHUSETTS.

July 17, 1912.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington, D. C.

Bureau of the mint
REC. JUL 24 1912

Sir:-

Mr. James E. Fraser tells me that you wish my opinion on the artistic qualities of the designs which he has made for the obverse and reverse of the five cent piece. I have examined them carefully and with keen interest and I have no hesitation in giving them my hearty approval. They are very fine both in design and in execution and I think you have reason to take great satisfaction in the thought that this beautiful coin has been made by your direction and is to be struck during your administration. Mr. Fraser has my sincere congratulations on the result of his labors.

Mr. Fraser has also shown me the design containing the head of Lincoln and I cannot help expressing the hope that this may be utilized for one of the other coins. It would seem a pity to lose so charming an example of the medallic art and so striking a portrait of the man.

Very respectfully,

Daniel C. French

305310

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

Bureau of the mint
REC. A 1912

Dear Mr Roberts

If you wish me to
do so I will leave
Monday night for Worcester
to see about the coin
detecting machine.

and show them the
new design.

I can't go before

on account of press
of work. It seems
to me, that as the
coins are changed only
once every twenty years
new detectors could be
made in accordance.

In Europe, I believe, when
a new coin comes out the
old ones are called in within
the space of two years. Is that
right?

Faithfully yours
J. E. Rose

305310

194 N. WABASH AVENUE

August 14, 1912.

Recd 8-16-12

8

Bureau of the Mint

1912

Dear Mr. Roberts:-

If it not too much trouble, would you be kind enough to let me know how the situation stands in regard to the design for the new Nickel, and what the next step will be.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

James MacVeagh

Hon. Geo. E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

305310
TREASURY
DEPT.
AUG
26
1912
TELEGRAPH
OFFICE.

5PO R 19 Rish

Bt New York Aug 26 1912

Geo E Roberts

Treasury Dept Washn DC

I am ready to come to Washington with the models at once
let me know when you want me

J E Fraser

1102am

EDWIN HOWLAND BLASHFIELD
48 CENTRAL PARK SOUTH
NEW YORK CITY

28 Aug 1912

Hon. Franklin MacVeagh.
Secretary of the Treasury.

Dear Sir.

I saw Mr Francis designs
yesterday and greatly approved of them.

I like the Indian and am delighted
with the Bison which would give us, it
seems to me, a distinctly national
American coin.

Our national
bird
Eagle is a superbly decorative animal
and should always remain as some
of our coins, but we share him with
Germany Russia Austria and other
States, the Bison is all ours.

I wish that Mr Francis
profile Lincoln could be used in some
way. It seems to me fine in the rather
high relief treatment which he has
accorded to it and the silver is hard
- some in its color-effect of surface.

I remain yours respectfully

Edwin Howland Blashfield

305310

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

Dublin, N.H.,
August 31, 1912.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I inclose a letter from Cass Gilbert, another member of the Commission on Fine Arts, expressing approval of Mr. Fraser's design. Please return the letters I have sent you to my office.

Sincerely yours,

Franklin Maclegh

Honorable George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint.

Blanchfield, 305310
305310

Dublin, N.H.,
August 30, 1912.

Dear Mr. Blanchfield:

Very many thanks for your letter of the 20th of August, which has followed me here, and which I am forwarding to George E. Roberts, Director of the Mint. I will ask Mr. Roberts to go ahead with the matter.

I am not surprised, but I am very greatly pleased that you so warmly commend Mr. Fraser's designs.

I will take the liberty of advising you of my communication with Kanyon Co. I shall not attempt this for a little while yet as I am going to try to take a little rest.

Very sincerely yours,

HW

Erwin Howland Blanchfield, Esq.,
48 Central Park South,
New York City.

305310

28 Gov't

New York, N.Y. Oct. 9

Via Washington, D.C. Oct. 9

Hon. Franklin MacVeagh

Sect'y of the Treasury
Dublin, N.H.

I think you would be justified in making the
arrangements on the basis

E. H. B. Blashfield

2P

Blashfield
E. H. B.
(MacVeagh)

305310

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

July 20, 1912.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Bureau of the mint.
REC. JUL 24 1912

I enclose a letter I have received from Mr. Daniel C. French, in which he expresses his favorable opinion of Mr. Fraser's design for the new five-cent piece.

I have acknowledged receipt of Mr. French's letter.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin MacKey

Hon. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint.

Enclosure.

305310



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

Dublin, N.H.,

September 14, 1912.

Bureau of the mint
REC. SEP 15 1912

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I visited the President on Thursday and showed him the letters of Messrs. Blashfield, Gilbert and French; and told him what was going on. He told me he did not know anything about it before; and I think felt as though I had not wished to appeal to his artistic sense. He asked me if I had the "things" along; but of course I did not have them. He was extremely nice about it, and the interview of course left me free to go ahead; and he expects nothing further.

It occurred to me, however, after I left Beverly that it would be a polite thing to have Mr. Fraser go to Beverly and show the designs to the President; and if possible to have Mr. French go with him - Mr. French being in the neighborhood.

I wish therefore you would arrange this, and telegraph me if you can; and I will call up the President and have an appointment made for them. I think this would be showing proper consideration to the President; and also would be agreeable to Mr. Fraser.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin MacVeigh

Hon. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint.



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

Dublin, N.H.,
August 30, 1912.

Bureau of the Mint
REC. SEP 3 1912

Dear Mr. Roberts:

In New York on Wednesday I had a long interview with Edwin Howland Blashfield, member of the Fine Arts Commission, as I told you I would. Mr. Fraser had already communicated with Mr. Blashfield, but an appointment had not been made for a meeting when I saw Mr. Blashfield. I explained the matter to him and he had an interview the same day, and the letter which I inclose to you, and which he sent to the Waldorf, hoping to catch me before I left town, shows the result. If I were you I would not wait any longer. It is evident that we can have the complete approval of the Fine Arts Commission. Mr. Hastings I see from the newspapers is still abroad, though he will now of course come home very quickly because his house in the country burned down the day I was in New York. Mr. Blashfield told me that he thought highly of Mr. Fraser's general work, but had not of course seen the designs for the nickel.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin MacVeagh

Honorable George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Enclosure.

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

Bureau of the mint
REC. SEP 24 1912

Geo. E. Roberts

Director of the Mint

Dear Mr Roberts

I am sending
you Mr French's letter
in reply to mine

Asking if he could
go with me to Beverly.
I hardly thought it

possible as he is a
very busy man.

I will be ready to go
any time. Please let
me know as far in
advance as possible.

I have been interviewed
by the Hobbs Co. several
times. They ~~cannot~~ tell nothing
until the coin is the proper
thickness.

Very sincerely

JH Fraser

Sept. 22

305310

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

SEP
30
1912

TELEGRAPH
OFFICE

14WU MO 38 Govt

Dublin, N.H., Sept 30 1912

Hon George E Roberts, Director of the Mint, Treasury Department,

Washington, D.C.

The President will be glad to see Mr Fraser Saturday October fifth at
three o'clock. Please arrange with Mr Fraser and write Rudolph Forster.

Franklin MacVeagh

1028am

305310

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

3PO MO 21

New York, Oct 1 1912

Mr Geo E Roberts, Director of the Mint,

Washington, D.C.

The arrangement for me to call on the President at Beverly on
Saturday, October fifth, at three p m suits me perfectly

J E Fraser

1108am

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

385310
DEPT.
OCT
1912
TELEGRAPH
OFFICE

19WU

19WU MO 39 Govt

Executive Office, Beverly, Mass., Oct 4 1912

Hon Geo E Roberts, Director of Mint,

Washington, D.C.

The President finds it necessary to leave Beverly to-morrow morning to keep some engagements made some time ago. This necessitates cancelling appointment for Mr Frazer. Please inform him.

Rudolph Forster

1107am

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

October 14, 1912

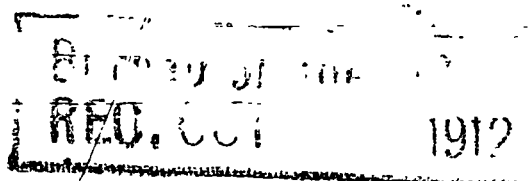
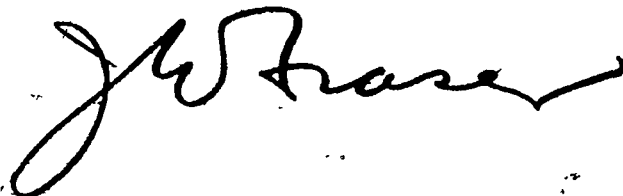
Dear Mr. Roberts:

Thank you ~~for~~ your letters from time to time; I haven't answered them because I thought there was no answer necessary. But I am still ready to go, at a moment's notice, to show the models to the President.

With best regards, I am,

Faithfully yours,

George E. Roberts, Esq.



305310



OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON October 28, 1912.

Copy.

Dublin N. H.
October 24, 1912.

MEMORANDUM FROM THE SECRETARY
FOR MR. F. W. TAYLOR.

Director Roberts asked me to find out whether it would be necessary for Mr. Fraser to go to Beverly to see the President about the design for the new nickel coin; and to let his office know. I made an appointment with Mr. Forster, which afterwards the President could not keep because he had to go away from Beverly; and both Mr. Roberts and I wished to prevent any delay in Mr. Fraser's work.

Please personally give this information to Mr. Robert's office. Someone there is prepared to receive it.

F. McV.

(Mr. Forster wired department that the President had been consulted and had no interest in seeing Mr. Fraser.)

305310
308449

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

December 1, 1912

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. Hobbs--which I am enclosing--in reference to the five-cent piece.

I notice that there is no concession whatever on his part; he asks me to reduce the size of the buffalo, inscription, etc., eight-one-hundredths of an inch which, practically is one-tenth of an inch. I have carefully considered every space surrounding the buffalo and have changed them all back and forth many times, arriving at this design only after the utmost care. So you see how radical any change approximating one-tenth of an inch would be in the relation of the spacing in a coin of this size.

Not only that but it is no sure thing that the coin-detector will be a practical success. I suggested that the first rim of the nickel be used instead of the circle inside the fretwork and also to bring the second circle nearer the stars. This I am sure can be done.

It is plain to be seen that they are trying to get everything they can at my expense; and I hardly think that the Government should be forced to accept a design which is in-

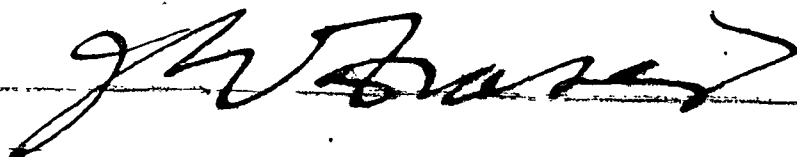
ferior to the present one when the machine could be changed without altering to any great degree its effectiveness, thus leaving the coin nearly in its present state. There would have to be a slight reduction even in event of using the first rim of the nickel. In the future, this would eliminate the wide rim which, on the present coin, is wholly out of proportion to its size thereby adding to the difficulty in making the design. We should think of the future, also, so that it will not be possible to have this trouble again. I called on Mr. French and he thinks it would be nearly out of the question to make so great a change in my design.

I only received the coins from Mr. Hobbs last Saturday so have had little time to work on them. I am perfectly willing to anything to help them without making the design bad.

As I understand it now, I am to make the reductions, send them to the Mint and see what the result will be. I will have Mr. Wiel send you the price on the reductions; it may be cheaper than usual as this is a trial.

Faithfully yours,

George E. Roberts, Esq.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. E. Roberts', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(Copy)

305318
Worcester, Mass. November 22, 1912.

Mr. J. E. Fraser,
3, Macdougall Alley,
New York City, N.Y:

Bureau of the mint.
REC. DEC 3 1912

Dear Mr. Fraser:

I am returning to you to-day by Registered Post the two proof coins which you entrusted to me for measurement. In our study of these in connection with the current five-cent coin, and the coin-testing machine, we find that there will be needed no change in the design of the Buffalo side, but only a slight change in proportion - or size.

The absolute requirements are:-

- Altogether* { (1) → A root circle inside the rim on the reverse
(2) → A root circle inside the rim on the face
which in this connection is the Buffalo
Why not put this on the star side. (3) → A broken circle inside the inscription
(4) → A bearing on the face (body) of the figure
Altogether (5) → A centre bearing

With the proof coins I am sending to you a standard five-cent coin marked with the circles indicated, 1, 2, and 3; also the centre point, 5. Herewith I hand you a drawing which gives the diameters and heights upon which we must rely to successfully test the old and the proposed new coins, and to separate them from foreign, false, and imitation coins and tokens.

The design of the Buffalo and the Indian head are so excellent that it would be asking too much to have them changed, but the results desired can all be achieved by reducing the Buffalo figure 8/100 of an inch in length and otherwise in proportion. This will give ample space for the outside circle, and the broken circle will then fall just outside the hump. The height between the root circle 2, and the circular bearing 4, and the centre point 5, are easily accomplished without in any way altering the general design. The foundation for the feet could be lowered a trifle and the root circle 2, pass over it without altering the design. It is nearly low enough now.

There should also be a root circular bearing around the Indian head inside the rim, as shown upon the reverse of the marked coin. This is for the purpose of getting the standard thickness upon which the test measurements are based.

The bottom of the broken circle 3 need not be flat, but may be more or less so, provided we have approximately the root depth at all points.

With the slight changes indicated I cannot see that the appearance of the coin will be marred and the public will then be given the full advantage of the automatic sales device which I have described to you.

I am requesting Mr. C. U. Carpenter, our New York associate, who will have to meet the public in introducing these machines as sales agent of the American Stamp and Ticket Vending Machine Co., No. 30 Church street, for whom this company is acting, to call upon you and he will make any needful explanation of these matters.

Thanking you for the courtesy of your reception and greatly appreciating the interest shown by you and Mr. Roberts in this whole matter, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

CWH:S
ENC.

(signed) C. W. Hobbs

305 310

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

File

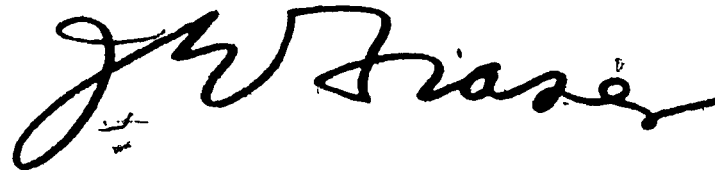
December 11, 1912

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I would like to leave New York for Washington on the coming Monday night to show you what it is necessary to do with the new nickel. Will you and Mr. MacVeagh be in on Tuesday?

Sincerely yours,

George E. Roberts, Esq.



THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

December 31, 1912.

Dec 31/12

Bureau of the mint
REG. JAN 2 1913

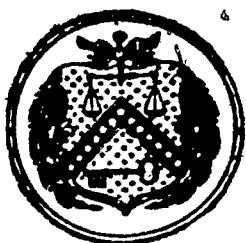
The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

As Mr. Frazer has expressed a desire to be present at the experimental striking of the new five-cent piece, I beg to inform you that we will be ready for this trial on Tuesday morning, January 7th. Will you kindly arrange for Mr. Frazer to be here at that time, or if that date should not suit, have him name as early a date as possible advising me of the same.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis
Superintendent.



OFFICE OF ENGRAVER

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

January 7th, 1913.

Hon. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

It may not have occurred to you the necessity of having possession of all models and moulds of whatever kind or condition, also bronze castings or wax reductions, in fact everything that has been made in connection with the new Five Cent coin.

I wish to call your attention to this matter because from the character of the design and execution of the same I am convinced that it would be an easy matter to counterfeit the new coin and therefore, it is most desirable that everything that has been made in the production of the same should be deposited in the Mint.

Respectfully,

B.

Chas. E. Barber

ENGRAVER.

H. WEIL

305310
F. WEIL

MEDALLIC ART Co.

34 EAST 28TH STREET

REDUCTIONS & ENLARGEMENTS

FROM

SCULPTORS MODELS

OF

STATUARY AND BAS RELIEFS

DIES CUT & MEDALS STRUCK

CASTINGS AND ELECTROTYPES IN ALL METALS

NEW YORK, JAN 7 1913

TELEPHONE 8279 MADISON SQUARE

SOLD TO

Mr. Geo. E. Roberts

SHIPPED BY

Director U.S. Mint

TERMS: NET CASH

2 Steel Stubs. for the new nickel
from works of J. E. Fawcett \$200.00

Bureau of the mint
REC. JAN 10 1913

H. WEIL

305310
F. WEIL

MEDALLIC ART CO.

34 EAST 28TH STREET

REDUCTIONS & ENLARGEMENTS

FROM

SCULPTORS' MODELS

OF

STATUARY AND BAS RELIEFS

DIES CUT & MEDALS STRUCK

CASTINGS AND ELECTROTYPES IN ALL METALS

NEW YORK,

JAN 20 1913

TELEPHONE 8279 MADISON SQUARE

SOLD TO

SHIPPED BY

TERMS: NET CASH

Bureau of the mint
REC. JAN 22 1913

2 Steel Statues (New model)
Final models by J. E. Fraser \$200.00

305310

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

Bureau of the mint
REC. JAN. 11 1913

DEPT
JAN
1913
RECORDED

7PO MO 16

BT NEW YORK, Jan 11 1913

Geo E Roberts, Director of the Mint,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, D.C.

Am working on models with inventor of machine expect finished dies next
week, very difficult problem

J E Fraser

308pm

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

January 11, 1913.

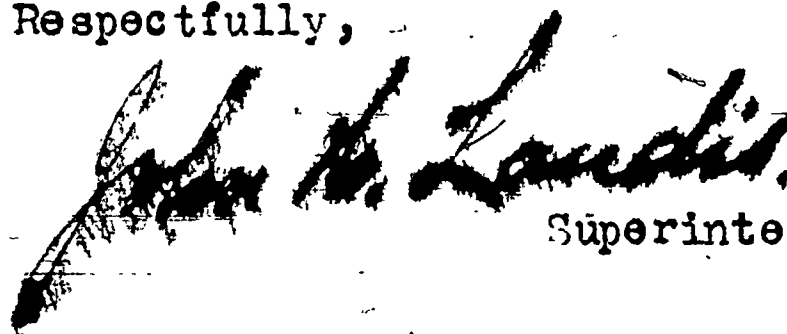
The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 10th instant, in reference to the new 5-cent piece, I beg to inform you that the Engraver states that he intends to harden the hubs today and will be ready to begin the manufacture of the working dies on Monday. If he stops all other work he can have a supply of dies sufficient to start all the presses in this mint and also ship to the Denver and San Francisco mints in ten days after receipt of your order. The Superintendent of the Coining Department states he can turn out \$15,000 per day if all the presses are put on this coin.

In accordance with your conversation over the telephone this morning, we will start the making of the dies on Monday and push the matter.

Respectfully,



Superintendent.

305310

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

22WU MO 30

Bureau of the Mint
REC. JAN 20 1913

NEW YORK, Jan 20 1913

Geo E Roberts, Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department, Washington, D.C.

I think it wise to meet me in Philadelphia tomorrow as the Hobbs people want to try the coin detector on the dies and there may be rubbing down necessary

Fraser

152pm

305310

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

18WU MO 22 49 8 ex

NEW YORK, Jan 20 1913

Bureau of the Mint
REC. JAN 20 1913

Director of the Mint, Mr Roberts,
Washington, D.C.

Am wiring you at suggestion of Mr Fraser, advising you our inventor Reith, will visit Philadelphia Mint tomorrow to go over suggested modifications in new five cent coins. Will you kindly wire proper authority there to take this up with Reith

American Stamp and Ticket Vending Machine Co
C U Carpenter, V P and G M

111pm

3 05310

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

TELETYPE
OFFICE

6PO MO 26

BE NEW YORK, Jan 20 1913

George E Roberts, Director of the Mint,
Department of Treasury, Washington, D.C.

The dies are finished and will be in Philadelphia tomorrow, delay caused
by working with inventor until he was satisfied, the coin is practically
the same

*and
telegram*

JE Frazer

1-20-13

1130am

2

AMERICAN STAMP AND TICKET VENDING MACHINE CO.

Astumco

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

CABLE ADDRESS: ASTUMCO

ABC 8TH EDITION

TELEPHONE, CORTLANDT 1520

30 CHURCH STREET

NEW YORK January 20, 1913

Hon. Director of the Mint, Mr. Roberts
Washington,
D.C.

Bureau of the mint
REC. JAN 21 1913

My dear Sir:-

As Mr. Fraser has probably informed you, we, by acting on your suggestion of working together, have come to the conclusion that certain modifications can be made in the new five-cent coin which will make it possible it to be used on our machines and at the same time not detract from its artistic value.

Mr. Fraser has sent the modified dies to Philadelphia today and our inventor, Mr. George Reith, will be in Philadelphia tomorrow morning to go over the matter very carefully with the die makers. I therefore sent you a telegram asking you to be kind enough to wire authority to the Philadelphia Mint to take this matter up with Mr. Reith.

We greatly appreciate the attitude of yourself and Mr. Fraser in this matter for it was a question of the most serious import to us. Our machines are now in daily use in the Hudson Tunnels and will soon be in many other important places in this City and Boston.

Thanking you sincerely for your past consideration, I remain,

Yours very truly,
American Stamp & Ticket Vending Machine Co.,

CUC RVF

V.P. & G.M.

305310

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

January 22, 1913.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Today, in the presence of Messrs. Clark, Buckley, Bird, Hewitt, Proud and myself 60 milled nickel blanks, in three lots of 20 each of different cutting and milling, were used in experimental strikes with a view of ascertaining the most suitable blank for the new design five cent nickel piece. After these experiments had been completed the 60 pieces were destroyed in the presence of Mr. Clark and myself.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis
Superintendent.

305310

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

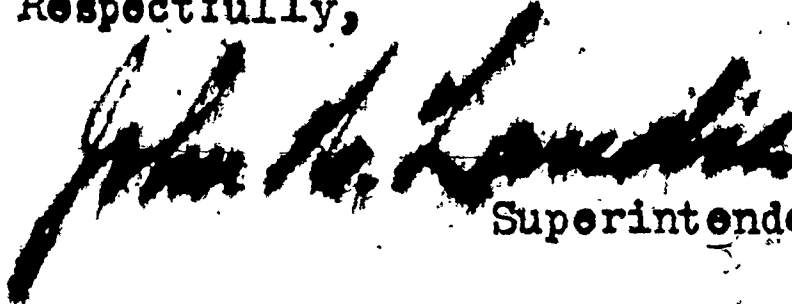
January 21, 1913.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

As requested in your telegram of today and your conversation over the telephone, I beg to enclose herewith one of the new 5-cent nickel pieces struck today from the dies as modified by the Engraver. The only change is in the border, which has been made round and true. The model was all free hand work and therefore not mechanically correct, which it had to be in order to conform to the requirements of modern coinage. The change was approved by Mr. Fraser this morning and he expressed himself as highly pleased, considering we had improved the piece.

Respectfully,


Superintendent.

The dies that Mr. Barber is working on are the improved design.

305310

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

January 24, 1913.

File

REC. 101
Bureau of the Mint

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I beg to report that on Tuesday, January 21st, forty nickel blanks were procured from the Superintendent of the Coining Department, nine of which were struck from the dies of the new design 5-cent nickel piece in the presence of Messrs. Barber, Norris, Hart, Mr. Fraser, the designer, and two representatives of the automatic vending machine. One of these pieces was forwarded to you and eight are in the possession of the Engraver. The remaining thirty-one blanks have been returned to the Superintendent of the Coining Department. Copy of Engraver's letter enclosed.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis
Superintendent.

305310

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

COPY

January 24, 1913.

Record of the mint.
JAN 25 1913

Hon. John H. Landis,
Superintendent.

Sir:

In compliance with instructions of the Director of the Mint received in letter of the 20th inst., namely, that we should confer with Mr. Fraser, also with parties interested in a certain coin detecting device and report the result, I beg to state that I held such a conference and found that I had already anticipated all that the patentee of the said device required. Therefore to satisfy both Mr. Fraser and the manufacturer of the coin detecting device it was necessary to strike some pieces for the inspection of both parties concerned. Forty blanks were procured from the Superintendent of the Coining Department and nine pieces were struck in the presence of the Superintendent and Chief Clerk. One of the pieces was sent to the Director on the 21st inst. and eight pieces I am holding until we hear from the Director after his examination of the coin submitted, when we can destroy them according to the regulation. The remaining 31 blanks I have returned to the Superintendent.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Chas. E. Barber

Engraver.

365316

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

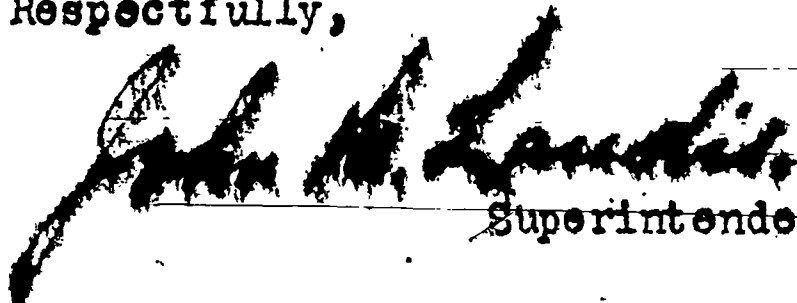
January 24, 1913.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I beg to inform you that in further experimental work in connection with the new design 5-cent nickel piece thirteen (13) pieces were this day struck in the presence of Messrs. Clark, Buckley, Bird, Hewitt, Proud, and myself. These thirteen pieces were immediately thereafter destroyed in the presence of Mr. Clark and myself.

Respectfully,


Superintendent.

365310

AMERICAN STAMP AND TICKET VENDING MACHINE CO.

Astumco

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

CABLE ADDRESS: ASTUMCO
ABC 5TH EDITIONNEW YORK
30 CHURCH STREET

WORCESTER, MASS. January 23, 1913.

Mr. George E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Reith has just returned from Philadelphia where he went with Mr. Fraser, the artist, to examine the new dies for the five-cent coin which is being prepared. I am quite disturbed this morning at the report which he brings back that the changes which were promised by Mr. Fraser have not been made in the dies, and that one hundred sets of dies of a pattern which practically precludes us from using the coin in our machines, have been prepared ready for use.

We were not aware that the matter had gone so far and can we now arrange with you to allow us to have one or two of these coins to make a careful survey of them, so as to determine just whether or not our business is ruined, or whether we can adopt our machines to the new coin as it is being made?

I feel sure that you would not knowingly have forwarded the matter at the so great disadvantage of this enterprise, had you been fully aware of all the circumstances.

I trust that I may have word from you by return post that permission will be given the Director of the Mint to supply us with some of these coins for testing.

Yours truly,

AMERICAN STAMP & TICKET VENDING MCH. CO.

By


Treasurer.

CWH.S

Copy to Phila

305310

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

January 26, 1913

Dear Mr. Roberts:

As you know, we found the dies which were both worked over with Mr. Reith the inventor and myself to be very little more aid than those which were done the first time.

I don't know whether you understood that the first models were carefully worked over to fit the coin-detecting machine and in making the second dies, I tried to have them absolutely correct. But, as we have seen, the difference after the reduction was made was so slight that my two-weeks work went for nothing.

~~The Hobbs people have offered to pay me for my time but I am not sure if that would be proper or the right ethics. You understand that the designs were finished six months ago, to our satisfaction and to the satisfaction of the Art Commission; so that all the work done since then has been at the instigation of the Hobbs Manufacturing Company. I could have done several medals in the time I have spent in changing the design of the one-thousandth-part of an inch, back and forth, innumerable times.~~

I find the engraving which was necessary to make the two sides of the coin fit exactly, the reduction of the edge and the simplifying of the background under the Buffalo's head ~~is~~ beautifully done, showing no difference between the surface which I put on the models and the one they have made. I am delighted with their work ~~at the~~

Mint.

I shall see that all the models are destroyed, except those which will most likely be wanted at

the Mint in Philadelphia.

Many thanks for your interest and perseverance in trying to preserve the artistic effect of my design and, at the same time, meet the requirements of the public at large.

Very sincerely yours,

J. B. Chase

Mr. George E. Roberts

HEINRICH WOLLHEIM, PRESIDENT

C. U. CARPENTER, VICE-PRESIDENT AND GEN'L MGR.

CURT WOLLHEIM, SECRETARY-TREASURER

305310

AMERICAN STAMP AND TICKET VENDING MACHINE CO.

Astumco

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

CABLE ADDRESS: ASTUMCO
ABC 5TH EDITION

NEW YORK
30 CHURCH STREET

WORCESTER, MASS. January 28, 1913

Recd 1-30-13

Mr. Geo. E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.

30

Dear Sir:

Your esteemed favor of the 26th is received. I trust you do not think our group are at all unmindful of the courtesy you have shown us in the matter of this coin. Far from it, and I find on further inquiry of Mr. Reith that he expressed to Mr. Fraser and to the Engraver the opinion that he possibly could use the new coin in the form in which it has been put through the efforts of the Engraver to make it mechanically symmetrical.

But we shall have to change our entire mechanism over in order to handle the new coin, whereas, had the changes been made as suggested to Mr. Fraser, this would not have been necessary. With the old mechanism we were positive. When we have to go into the field of experiment to devise a new mechanism we are not positive.

I am advised by our Philadelphia associate, Mr. Edward F. Henson, that he has received authorization from you to have one of the new nickels sent to us. We are expecting to receive this, perhaps tomorrow, and we shall then be in better position to determine just where we stand in relation to this matter. I sincerely trust

305310

HEINRICH WOLLHEIM, PRESIDENT

G. U. CARPENTER, VICE-PRESIDENT AND GEN'L MGR.

CURT WOLLHEIM, SECRETARY-TREASURER

AMERICAN STAMP AND TICKET VENDING MACHINE CO.

Astumco

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

CABLE ADDRESS: ASTUMCO

ABC 8TH EDITION

NEW YORK
30 CHURCH STREET

WORCESTER, MASS. January 28, 1913.

Mr. Geo. E. Roberts.

2.

that the easy optimism of our Mr. Reith was in this instance well placed, and that my anxiety as to the event will prove to have been unfounded.

Again thanking you for your consideration in this matter,

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

AMERICAN STAMP AND TICKET VENDING MACHINE CO.

By

Curt Wollheim
Treasurer.

CWH.S

HEINRICH WOLLHEIM, PRESIDENT

C. U. CARPENTER, VICE-PRESIDENT AND GEN'L MGR.

CURT WOLLHEIM, SECRETARY-TREASURER

AMERICAN STAMP AND TICKET VENDING MACHINE CO.
Astumco

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

CABLE ADDRESS: ASTUMCO

ARC. 5TH EDITION

TELEPHONE, CORTLANDT 1520

30 CHURCH STREET

NEW YORK

January 28, 1913.

Mr. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Sir:-

When our inventor Mr. Reith visited the Philadelphia mint with Mr. Fraser, the arrangement was made that one of the new five cent coins was to be struck off of the dies and sent to us, in order that we might see how this would work in our vending machines. As yet we have heard nothing about this and we would greatly appreciate it if you would direct the Philadelphia mint authorities to hurry this matter along for us as quickly as possible.

Assuring you of our sincere appreciation of anything you may do in this matter, we remain,

Yours very truly,

American Stamp & Ticket Vending Machine Co.



V.P. & G.M.

CUC/FVF

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

My dear Mr Roberts

I really can't understand
Mr Hobb's letter. In
the first place I worked
on the models until Mr
Reith the inventor said
that they were perfect

Then we had the die
cut and afterwards in
Philadelphia he found
one little point out
side. What it should be.

And as he found that was
the only trouble in the
first die, it made no
difference, which one was
used. — Mr Barker must
have told you all this.

Mr Reith distinctly said
to Mr Barker, Mr Hensen,
(his own partner), and myself
that it would make no
difference, that it was
allright to go ahead with
the coming. and that he
could arrange his dies to
suit the coming and could
do so without any doubt.

Mr. Hansen said "Are you sure" and he said "I am sure" He said he would make a flexible die like the one he made to fit the one last piece. I asked him how that worked and he said it worked perfectly.

What I was expected to do was to make a large model so perfect that when it was reduced five times it would open a combination lock on being run through it. That is rather a difficult task and I only let it go when Mr. Reith was

Satisfied after measuring
it day after day. I surely
could do no more.

As I have told you in
a previous letter I feel that
the work done at the Mint
The engraving turning up the edge
smoothing the back ground where
I suggested is perfect. It
couldn't have been done
better. I have showed the
trial nickel you gave me to Mr
French, Adams, and a number
of other artists. They all tell me
that it is our best coin.

Will you please tell Secretary
Mac Veagh that I am satisfied with
the coin as it was struck from the finished
die

Sincerely yours
J. E. Brown

Jan. 28th / 1913

AMERICAN STAMP AND TICKET VENDING MACHINE CO.

ASTUMCO

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

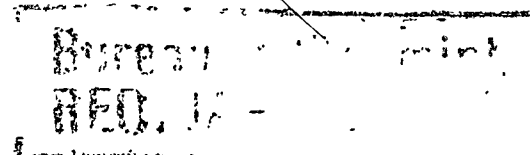
CABLE ADDRESS: ASTUMCO
ABC-5TH EDITIONNEW YORK
30 CHURCH STREET

WORCESTER, MASS. January 29, 1913

Hon. Geo. E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.



Dear Sir:

Permit me to advise you of the receipt from Mr. Edward F. Henson of Philadelphia of one of the new 5¢ nickel coins, which has been the subject of previous correspondence.

Mr. Henson advised me that he has signed a receipt to the effect that this coin must be delivered back by the 10th of February. It will be impossible for us to design and make the new coin detectors within the time specified. The writer had hoped that the new coin would enable us to use the pattern we had already perfected. We find that we shall have to make a very great change in the detector in order to use this new coin and the old coin in the same mechanism. Therefore, will you kindly extend the time at which this coin should be returned to the first day of March, in place of the tenth of February.

I do not wish to cause Mr. Henson any trouble in the matter, nor to bother the good people in Philadelphia about it if it can be avoided; therefore, I am applying directly to you and I trust you will pardon my doing so.

Yours truly,

AMERICAN STAMP & TICKET VENDING MCH. CO.

BY

Treasurer.

CWH.S

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

January 29, 1913

30

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 28th instant, enclosing copy of a communication received from the American Stamp and Ticket Vending Machine Co. in reference to the new design five-cent nickel piece. Your letter of authority to deliver one of the last struck of these new five-cent pieces was received about noon on the 27th. Mr. Henson was notified but was too busy that afternoon to call and receipt for it. He came, however, early on the morning of the 28th, received the coin and receipted for it, to be returned not later than February 10th in accordance with your instructions.

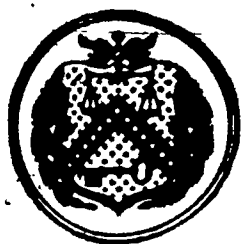
In reference to what was said when Mr. Fraser, Mr. Henson, and Mr. Reith were present, I enclose herewith a statement made by Mr. Barber.

The conversation between Mr. Reith, Mr. Barber, Mr. Fraser and Mr. Henson in reference to whether this coin would work satisfactorily in the Vending Company's machine was not heard by myself and the Chief Clerk, but from what was said by Mr. Fraser and Mr. Barber immediately after the trial, bears out the statement of Mr. Barber.

Respectfully,

John H. Henson

Superintendent.



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

January 29, 1913

Hon. John H. Landis,
Superintendent.

Sir:

My recollection of the conference held on the 21st instant with Mr. Fraser and Mr. Reith, also Mr. Henson, in regard to the new Five Cent coin is perfectly clear.

Mr. Reith came to my office first and explained what was required to make the coin acceptable to the Vending Company. Mr. Henson, also a representative of the Company, came next and Mr. Fraser last. The subject was fully discussed in all its bearings. Mr. Fraser was more than satisfied with the hubs as made by me, and disapproved of the new reductions from his altered model. As Mr. Reith could not judge from the hubs whether a coin made from the dies would be satisfactory to him and suitable to his device, I proposed that a coin should be struck in the presence of these three gentlemen. This suggestion was gladly accepted. The regular blanks were procured and the first pair of finished dies that my hand rested upon in the die drawer was taken. We then proceeded to the medal room, and, in the presence of the three gentlemen mentioned, Mr. Hart, foreman of the medal room, struck the coins as I suggested— that is, one piece would be struck and then measurements would be made by Mr. Reith; then another piece would be struck and the same process would be gone through; this was done until nine pieces had been struck and measured by Mr. Reith. I proceeded in this manner, to give Mr. Reith full opportunity to see what difference there was likely to occur in different

pieces arising from different degrees of malleability. I found Mr. Reith had provided himself with a micrometer gauge with adjustable points, making a most delicate instrument, as it allowed him to measure the smallest points of the coin. He was given every opportunity to satisfy himself that the coins were all that he needed or desired for the device he was making. He was given his own time, not hurried, or influenced in the least. After deliberating and measuring in every way he desired, he expressed himself as entirely satisfied.

Mr. Henson, who I understand is the capitalist, asked Mr. Reith in the presence of several of us who were standing around, if he, Reith, was fully assured that the piece was all that he required, and he answered Mr. Henson by telling him, he was.

Having all parties so fully satisfied the conference broke up in the full belief that there was nothing more to be desired.

The parties present when the pieces were struck consisted of the Superintendent, Chief Clerk, Mr. Hart, the foreman of the medal room, and the three gentlemen who came to have the conference.

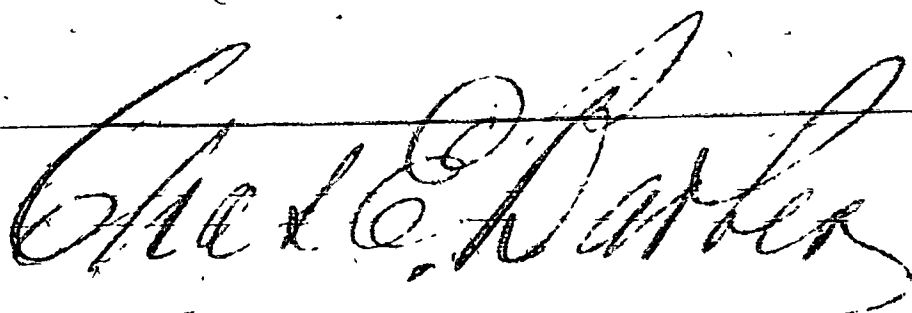
There was no suggestion that any change was advantageous or desirable. I must think there is some confusion of dates and that the letter to the Director was written before the conference, as every test made by Mr. Reith while here only appeared to confirm and strengthen his opinion that the coin was suitable for his device. He assured Mr. Henson that it was only a matter of a few days when he would be ready as he would make some slight change. As Mr. Reith has not had in his possession one of the new coins, he could not have made any other tests, therefore it appears impossible that he should reverse his opinion of the 21st instant on the 23d. Unless there is some mistake, Mr. Hobbs letter is incomprehensible.

I have just finished a conversation over the phone with Mr. Henson, before

(3)

mentioned, and he confirms my statement that Mr. Reith expressed himself as satisfied that the coin was all that he found necessary for his device, but qualifies this by saying that Mr. Reith is sometimes "over sanguine." Mr. Henson also says that he has had a conversation over long distance 'phone with Mr. Hobbs and that he, Mr. Hobbs, was very much disappointed at not receiving the coin to make further tests and that he, Henson, is of the opinion that that caused Hobbs to write his letter of the 23d instant, but that now the coin has been furnished, Henson would suggest that no further notice be taken until a report is furnished after further tests have been made where the devices are constructed.

Respectfully,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Henson". The signature is written over a horizontal line and has a long, sweeping underline.

ENGRAVER.

H. W. GODDARD, PRESIDENT

C. U. CARPENTER, VICE PRESIDENT AND GEN'L MGR.

305310
CURT WOLLHEIM, SECRETARY-TREASURER

AMERICAN STAMP AND TICKET VENDING MACHINE CO.

Astumco

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

CABLE ADDRESS: ASTUMCO
ABC 5TH EDITION
TELEPHONE CORTLANDT 1520

30 CHURCH STREET, ROOM 440

NEW YORK Jan. 31, 1913.

file
Mr. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Sir:-

Replying to your very kind favor of Jan. 29th, am pleased to advise you that Mr. Henson secured the new nickel piece from the Mint and it is now in Worcester being investigated by our experts there.

We certainly deeply appreciate your very kind action in regard to this very important matter and very much regret that we have been the cause of further delay.

As a matter of fact we find that Mr. Reith was quite naturally influenced by the fact that such a large number of dies had already been made and, instead of pointing out clearly just what the situation demanded, agreed to adapt our device to the coin more readily than he was warranted in doing.

I am expecting to hear from Mr. Hobbs at any time and you may be sure that we will advise you just as soon as we receive word about this. We are not losing a moment on it but are working on it most strenuously.

Assuring you of our sincere appreciation of your action in this matter, we remain,

Yours very truly,

American Stamp & Ticket Vending Machine Co.

CUC/RVF

C. U. Carpenter
V.P. & G.M.

AMERICAN STAMP AND TICKET VENDING MACHINE CO.

Astumco

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

CABLE ADDRESS: ASTUMCO
ABC 5TH EDITIONNEW YORK
30 CHURCH STREET

WORCESTER, MASS. January 31, 1913

Hon. Geo. E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your considerate favor of January 30 is received, and your request for answer by wire is duly noted. It being impossible to answer by wire I have requested your indulgence until tomorrow when this letter can reach you.

There has been a most unfortunate misunderstanding about this coin matter. I understood from what you said to Mr. Fraser when in New York that he was to have charge of making the dies for the new coin, and Mr. Fraser told me the same thing later on. Consequently I spent the two months of intervening time very largely with him, very much to his annoyance, and in the face of several complaints on his part that he was wasting his time in the matter as his duties had been paid for, and what he was then doing was being done without charge. This, however, only came out the last few days previous to going to Philadelphia. But at the end of our conferences he had agreed to produce the results in the new coin which we were asking for, viz., a depression of .007 of an inch immediately around the rim so as to give us our root depth.

When we were summoned to go to Philadelphia, I supposed, and

so instructed Mr. Reith, that he was to go down to check the changes which had been made, as was supposed, by Mr. Fraser. Therefore I did not think it would be necessary for me to go.

When Mr. Reith with Mr. Henson arrived at the Mint, he was confronted with a new state of facts, viz., that the dies had been made, and that all of our work with Mr. Fraser had gone for naught, because the dies had been made without reference to the changes which he had agreed to make. In the mechanical work at the Mint it was found that certain changes from Mr. Fraser's design had been made.

Mr. Reith is not an expert engineer but a common workman of rather more than average capacity and ingenuity. He thinks slowly and has not the gift of expression, and he appears to have been rather surprised into making some statements which he now considers to have been premature, to the effect that he thought that the coin as designed and made by the dies could be successfully used. What he intended to say was that he thought he could devise a machine which would combine the points on the old die with some of the points on the new coin. He has been engaged upon this night and day since we received the new coin on Thursday morning. It will not be possible for him to reach a certain conclusion before Monday next, which will necessitate his working over Sunday.

It is greatly to be regretted that the writer had not been informed that the matter of making the dies was not in the hands of Mr. Fraser but in the hands of the Engraver at the Mint. Arrangements could then have been made that I work directly with the Engraver, and the necessary depth attained without in the least marring

the design of the coin, or producing any difference in it that the eye would detect unless the attention was specially directed to it. The .007 of an inch depression around the rim could not have been seen by any person who was not looking for that particular thing, and then not with the naked eye, and only with very accurate instruments; but as this was not done, we are up against an exceedingly difficult proposition.

We are using all due speed to get accurate data upon it. We recognize the fact that we are not the United States Government, and if it were only a question of our own interests in the matter we should not have troubled you at all. But this question of automatic sales is one which interests the general public to such a degree, as evidenced by our late trials in the station of the Hudson Terminal in New York, that it seems to me, and to others with whom I have conferred, to be quite worthy of your attention as it will reach on into the future as long as these new 5¢ coins are used, and the security of the public is the great desideratum.

I am therefore asking that you defer your order to proceed with the coinage until Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning. I will wire you just the earliest moment that we can come to a definite understanding of the situation.

You will recall that we have been working on a blind lead for two months, and have only had accurate data to go from the past two days.

Had we been informed by Mr. Fraser in New York when he showed us the sample coin that it was a matter that was up to the Engraver in Philadelphia, we could then have arrived at the end desired with

Mr. Geo. E. Roberts.

-4-

Jan. 31, 1913.

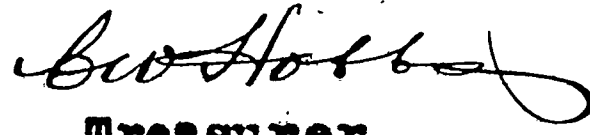
trouble to no one, but he gave us distinctly to understand that the needed changes in the coin would be made at his direction.

This misunderstanding was most unfortunate all around, but because several persons were concerned in it I am venturing to make the request stated above, and will follow this letter by a telegram at the earliest possible moment as suggested.

Sincerely yours,

AMERICAN STAMP & TICKET VENDING MACHINE CO.

By



Treasurer.

CWH.S

305310

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

28WU MO 8

TELEGRAPH
OFFICE

WORCESTER, Mass Jan 31 1913

Geo E Roberts Director of Mint
Washington, D.C.

Kindly await special delivery letter tomorrow just posting

C. W. Habbs

1137am

3053/10

HEINRICH WOLLHEIM, PRESIDENT

C. U. CARPENTER, VICE-PRESIDENT AND GEN'L MGR.

CURT WOLLHEIM, SECRETARY-TREASURER

AMERICAN STAMP AND TICKET VENDING MACHINE CO.

Astumco

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

CABLE ADDRESS: ASTUMCO
ABC 8TH EDITION

NEW YORK
30 CHURCH STREET

WORCESTER, MASS. Feb. 3, 1913.

Hon. Geo. E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We have carried our tests upon the new coin today to the point where we can speak definitely in regard to the present situation.

The thickest part, just inside the rim on the new coin, is at the head of the Buffalo. At this point the new coin is .006 thicker than the old coin in the same relative place. This extra thickness will prevent us from working close enough to be safe, by which is meant that the chance of slugs passing through and being accepted is increased by about 20%. The present percentage of uncertainty is only about 1/2 of 1%.

There are two ways of meeting the difficulty.

First, to sink the head of the Buffalo .006 of an inch. This could be done without in any way altering the design or making any change in it which would be visible to the observer, but the writer is not prepared to say just what affect this alteration would have upon your die, i.e., whether it would require to have the die re-engraved or whether the change could be made at that particular point.

Mr. Geo. E. Roberts.

-2-

Feb. 3, 1913.

Second. The alternative way of meeting the difficulty would be to grind off from the face of the dies at the rim, .003 upon each side, which would give us the total adjustment of .006 which marks the difference between the old and the new coins. This would be the least trouble and would require no alteration in the engraved section of the die, and would result only in the slightly deeper embossing of the whole engraved portions upon each side. In other words, the rim on the coin would be .003 higher, as compared with the engraved portion than on the sample coin.

The labor of making this change would be but a few minutes and when done the coinage could proceed at once, so far as this problem which we are considering is concerned.

On receiving Mr. Reith's report and finding how far advanced the dies were, it seemed to me too much to ask that the engraving be materially altered, but I urgently request that you authorize Mr. Barber to make this change as specified in Section 2 above.

My advice has been that the regulations of your Department prescribe a certain thickness of the nickel coin upon the rim, and that your dies are set to produce this thickness. If my advice is correct, then the change specified in No. 2 will give us the thickness upon the new coin at its thickest point under the rim precisely the same as upon the thickest of the old coins which our experience thus far has brought to light (We find varying thicknesses of the old 5¢ coins the average being from .053 to .055 running up to .060 for the thickest, the new coin with .078 at the rim directly under the rim at three points measures .060).

I am sending a copy of this letter to my Philadelphia

Mr. Geo. E. Roberts.

-3-

Feb. 3, 1913.

associate, Mr. Edward F. Henson. On Saturday, at my request, Mr. Henson called upon Mr. Barber at the Mint, making the above request, and his reply was that he could not do this without authorization from you. I beg once more, therefore, to request your authorization of this slight amendment of the coin and that you advise me tomorrow morning at our expense of your favorable decision, and also that you so advise Mr. Barber.

Appreciating your attention in this matter and in particular your most kind expressions in your letter received this morning, a most cheering evidence of your appreciation of the importance of this matter, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

AMERICAN STAMP & TICKET VENDING MACHINE CO.

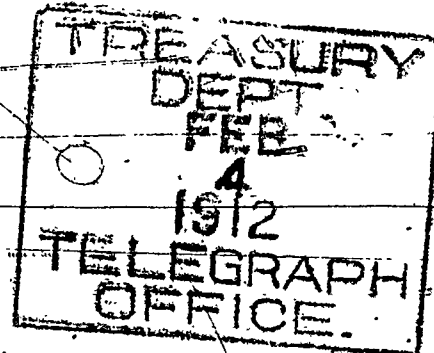
By

C. W. Hobbs
Treasurer.

CWH.S

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM



10WU MO 62 DAY LETTER

WORCESTER, Mass, Feb 4 1913

George E Roberts, Director of Mint, Washington, D.C.

Letter in full last night, no change in design of coin necessary, but simply to grind off three thousandths inch off dies on face of rim, can be done in one hour and incidentally this will better protect legend five cents, from wear. If not understood will go Washington on receipt wire to explain or Philadelphia to show Mr Barber. Reply requested

C W Hobbs

936am

Telegram to Hobbs & Son

2-4-13

305310

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

TREASURY
DEPT
FEB
4
1912
TELEGRAPH
OFFICE

19WU MO-9

Worcester Mass Feb 4 1913

G E Roberts, Director of Mint,
Washington, D.C.

I will go to mint Wednesday Please name hour

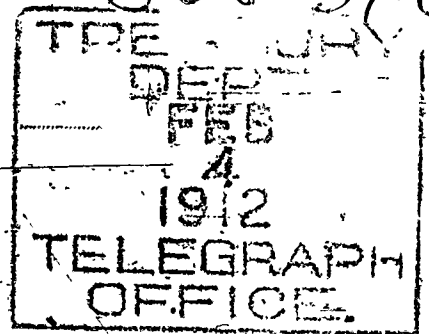
C W Hobbs

1259pm

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

15PO MO 10



NEW YORK, Feb 4 1913

George E Roberts Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Will arrive in Philadelphia at 10:30 Wednesday.

J E Fraser

139pm

305310
Macdougall Alley,

New York City,

Feb. 8th, 1913.

Hon. Franklin MacVeagh,

Secretary of the U.S. Treasury,

Treasury Building,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:-

After the most careful consideration of what has taken place since I saw you and Mr. Roberts early last July and you approved my designs for the new nickel, I have come to the conclusion that I should advise you what has taken place, and ask for your further directions. I am constrained to do this because I feel very confident that unless some immediate action be taken your initiation to improve the standard of our coinage, and the result which seemed so satisfactory to you and later to the Art Commission will be entirely lost. I am writing this, leaving aside for the present my own great desire which I know you will understand, to see my designs become a reality, and also other matters personal to myself.

(a) In the latter part of July, Mr. Roberts, during one or two of my numerous trips to Washington at your request through Mr. Roberts, told me that there was some company which manufactured coin detecting machines and that they had made inquiries about the new coin, and in the latter part of August or the early part of September, 1912, Mr. Roberts informed me specifically that the Hobbs Manufacturing Co. of Worcester, Mass., had raised with him or in the Department a question as to whether or not a machine which had been patented by the Hobbs Manufacturing Company would act satisfactorily with the coins struck from the dies made from my designs, that is, the question they raised was whether their machine, which they claim discriminates automatically against counterfeit coinage, would work satisfactorily with the new nickel, and Mr. Roberts then requested me to meet Mr. Hobbs here in New York. This

occurred shortly after hearing from Mr. Roberts as above. There were present Mr. Hobbs, Mr. Reith (the inventor of the detecting machine) and Mr. Hensen, of Philadelphia, Pa., who, I understand, has a one-third interest in the detecting machine referred to above. Certain suggestions were made by Mr. Hobbs as to changing the design for the die which he stated would overcome the difficulties complained of. I listened very carefully to all he had to say, and I am sure that I made every honest endeavor to understand his suggestions and objections in so far as they were possible and also in making any suggestions that I could in connection with his machine to aid him to meet the requirements of the design as approved by you.

(a) Later, and on August 26th last, I received a letter from Mr. Roberts stating that he had seen you about the new nickel and that you were still anxious to obtain the endorsement of one or two more members of the Fine Arts Commission (you will remember that up to that time Mr. French was the only one of the Commissioners who had approved the design). In compliance with this request I asked Mr. Blashfield and Mr. Cass Gilbert to look at the designs, and if they approved, to write a letter of approval to you, which they both did, and the letters from both of them must be on file in your office.

(b) After the interview referred to in paragraph (a) I started work in an attempt to meet the suggestions and objections that Mr. Hobbs had made to the design of the new nickel, changing the designs as far as I could without lessening their artistic value but with a sincere desire to meet the suggestions and objections that Mr. Hobbs had made, and I believe from what Mr. Hobbs

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Hon. F. MacV. -3-

had said at the previous meeting that I had accomplished this by my alterations.

(c) About the 7th of November Mr. Hobbs and Mr. Reith (the inventor of the machine) called at my studio to see what was the result of the efforts that I had agreed to make. They did not seem to be satisfied with the result and it was impossible for me to understand from their conversation in regard to the matter involving measurements of one thousandths of an inch. On their request I gave them electro-plate reductions of the two sides, which I had had made since my interview with Mr. Hobbs and the other gentleman, in the latter part of August or the early part of September, 1912. These they stated they wanted for the purpose of having them "sweatted" together for the purpose of trying the design in their new machine and also in indicate the changes which they might ask to have made in order to meet the requirements of their machine. On November 22nd Mr. Hobbs returned to me the two electro-plate reductions, delivered to him as stated above, sweatted together with all the changes made on both sides that he stated were necessary in order to make the new nickel work satisfactorily with his detecting machine. The designs so put together and returned to me I took to Washington myself, and showed them to Mr. Roberts, and I am sure that you will remember that Mr. Roberts and I then showed them to you, and that both you and Mr. Roberts stated that you would not have the designs such as they then were whether or

Hon. F. MacV. -4-

not I would pass them myself. After the above interview, and after both yourself and Mr. Roberts having expressed yourselves as you did, Mr. Roberts asked me to return to New York and attempt to make changes in my designs which would fit, if possible, the detecting machine, but on no account or under no circumstances to do anything that would injure the design itself. Mr. Roberts also urged me to make great haste in the matter, particularly in the making of the dies, and said that he would get the order from you at once, which he subsequently did, and sent to me. I immediately made such changes as I could without lowering the value of the design and had the dies made and sent them on to Philadelphia to Mr. Barbour, who prepared the dies for striking.

(d) On December 3rd last I received a letter from Mr. Roberts in which he acknowledged the receipt from me of a copy of a letter from Mr. Hobbs, dated November 2nd, 1912, which was written at the time Mr. Hobbs returned to me the electro-plate reductions referred to in paragraph (c), which I had sent Mr. Roberts on my own account to indicate to him what had occurred as far as Mr. Hobbs and his Company were concerned during the time that I had not had any communication with Mr. Roberts. Mr. Roberts in his letter asked me what answer I had given Mr. Hobbs, and suggests that if I had not given Mr. Hobbs an answer that I do so "and we will see what results". Mr. Roberts further states in this letter that he does not want to spoil the design nor on the other hand does he want to block the development of an improved automatic machine, and suggests that I

365310

Hon. F. MacV. -5-

"perfect the design going as far in the matter as I think I can without impairing its artistic effectiveness". On December 15th, having made a previous arrangement with Mr. Roberts, I went to Washington and met you and Mr. Roberts. I brought with me the electro-plate reductions which, as has been previously stated, I gave to Mr. Hobbs on November 7th and were returned to me by Mr. Hobbs with a letter from him referred to above and changed as they desired on the actual reductions themselves. At the interview that I had with you and Mr. Roberts at this time with these electro-plate reductions changed by the Hobbs Manufacturing Company, you and Mr. Roberts both objected to the reductions as they then appeared most emphatically.

(e) On December 19th I received a letter from Mr. Roberts and approved by yourself, dated December 18th, 1912, authorizing me to complete and perfect the designs obverse and reverse heretofore submitted and now approved by the Department for a new five cent nickel piece, and stating that upon the completion of the same and the final acceptance of the models and after a successful working test of the dies I should be paid as full compensation, etc. This letter perhaps might be open to different instructions, but I certainly took it to mean, and I now believe that it does mean, that I was authorized by it to complete and perfect the designs if in any way I felt that this could be done with improvement or without injuring the original design shown to you in the early summer of 1912, but that you, through Mr. Roberts as Director of the Mint, did in this

Hon. F. MacV. 26-

letter approve the designed both obverse and reverse as I had submitted them to you in the early summer of 1912, and that where Mr. Robert's letter states "and upon the completion of the same and the final acceptance of the models and after a successful working test of the dies" nothing further is meant than that the formal approval of my designs was conditional only upon completion of the models for exhibition and final lodgment in the Philadelphia Mint and after a successful working test of the dies cut from my models.

(f) On January 3rd I received from Mr. Roberts a letter, dated January 2nd, informing me that he had been advised by the Superintendent of the Mint in Philadelphia, that they would be ready to make an experimental strike of the five cent piece on Tuesday morning, January 7th, and requesting that I be present at that time. I attended at the mint in Philadelphia on Tuesday morning, January 7th. There were present your son Mr. James MacVeagh, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Barbour. Under the direction of Mr. Barbour, the Superintendent, there was a very successful striking of the new coins. Mr. Roberts spoke emphatically of the success of the striking, and I heard some of the men that were actually engaged in striking the coins say that the coins struck easier than the old nickel with less pressure. Mr. Roberts at the end of the striking of the new coins referred to above asked me whether Mr. Hobbs of the Hobbs Manufacturing Company was satisfied with the coin, and I then told Mr. Roberts that Mr. Hobbs of the Hobbs Manufacturing Company had told me that he still

wanted more changes. Mr. Roberts then suggested that I make the changes to the best of my ability without spoiling the design and have another set of dies made. He also suggested in this connection that I co-operate as far as possible with Mr. Hobbs and Mr. Reith. This I did, working with Mr. Reith for several days with his criticism, and after very careful measurements having been taken by him he finally said that if the model could be changed in accordance with the exact measurements which we had arrived at it would be satisfactory to the Hobbs Manufacturing Company, and I then told him that I would make these alterations so that he could see the model with them made. After this, and within two or three days, during which time Mr. Reith, the inventor, was constantly at my studio, he examined the model with the alterations which I had made and expressed himself as entirely satisfied.

(g) Thereupon a second set of dies were cut under my supervision and sent to Philadelphia. About two weeks later, or about January 21st, a meeting was had in Philadelphia arranged by Mr. Roberts between Mr. Barbour, Mr. Hensen, Mr. Reith and myself in Philadelphia to examine the second set of dies cut under my supervision (Mr. Roberts had arranged to be present but found it impossible). At this meeting Mr. Reith, the inventor, found so little difference in the two sets of dies that he told Mr. Barbour, Mr. Hobbs and myself that the difference was so slight that he could overcome all difficulties by the use of the flexible die in his own

machine such as his Company used on the one cent piece. Mr. Reith also distinctly stated that coining should, as far as his machine was concerned, begin immediately under the first set of dies that had been prepared under my supervision.

(h) On February 4th last I received a telegram from Mr. Roberts asking me to meet him, Mr. Hobbs and Mr. Reith in Philadelphia on February 5th last, at 10 o'clock. I kept this engagement. Mr. Hobbs and the inventor, Mr. Reith, thereupon showed me a new machine that they had made and said generally that it would not work to their satisfaction in connection with the new coin, and thereupon asked me to again change the design according to their suggestions, always reapproaching the general mechanical effect of the old nickel.

From all the above and other incidents that I cannot explain very well in writing, I am forced to believe that I am being used as a means to bring the new five cent piece back to the low artistic standard of the old nickel, and that this is being attempted by the Hobbs Manufacturing Co., or if their attempt is not immediately successful, they at least feel confident they can delay the final action in the matter until a different administration is installed in Washington and then begin their whole dilatory tactics over again.

It would seem plain from what has occurred that their real attempt is, whatever they may say, to make the new coin fit their machine and not the machine the coin, or in other words to establish the principle that all our future coinage shall first be submitted to test of a privately owned machine and probably several of them. I say "several" with some warrant because the Hobbs Manufacturing Co. has asked me whether any other company manufacturing such a machine as

theirs has seen me, and furthermore how can there be any certainty that other machines for such a purpose will not be devised, and is there not a probability that they will, and is it not even probable that the Hobbs Manufacturing Company will make changes itself?

As you will see from the above recital of facts, I have complied with the demands of the Hobbs Manufacturing Co. on every occasion, except the last, and this I cannot comply with because I am sure that it would result in destroying the artistic value of the original design which you have approved. May I also submit for your consideration whether such a concession in this case by the Government would not set, by precedent, the preponderance in importance of the coin detecting machines, operated largely for private gain, over the artistic value of the U.S. coinage, in which the whole public has an interest. In speaking to me the Hobbs Manufacturing Company have said that the "whole public" had an interest in their machine, and yet they speak almost entirely of the time when their machine is used everywhere, and I cannot but feel that this may be much further away than their hopes place it, and also that it is quite in order that other machines should come into the market "better", "as good", or "nearly as good", and then it would seem that the Government would either have to give a practical monopoly to, say, the Hobbs Manufacturing Company or so change the coin that it would be satisfactory to all the other bona fide and well constructed machines.

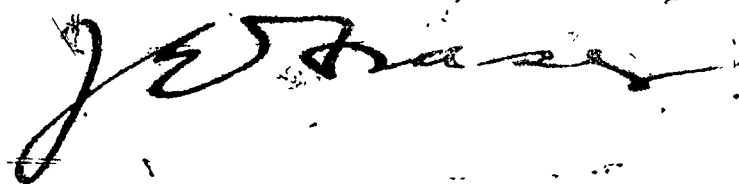
Also if it becomes an established fact that practically only one kind of machine is in use for detecting coins, the color, feel, weight, etc. of which is in no way connected, would it not be worth considering whether such a machine, practically universal in use, would not encourage the manufacture of counterfeit coinage with the sole purpose of passing it successfully through such a machine.

Hon. F. MacV. -10-

~~Lastly in fairness to myself I feel I should write that I~~
~~have tried my best, and in co-operation, as far as it was possible~~
~~with the Hobbs Manufacturing Co., at Mr. Robert's suggestion, to~~
~~fit the coin to the machine without ruining the design, and this~~
~~long after the work which I was asked to do was completed and ap-~~
~~proved.~~ This has taken largely from my work time and opportu-
nities, for I am sure you understand how it is with an artist -
time spent in conferences over matters outside his art are doubly
lost, once because it does not lead to further work in his field,
and again because it cannot but put him out of joint, so to speak,
~~for straight work in his own field.~~ Beyond this my time so lost
has meant a substantial loss and in considering this I must take
into account the fact that I have others dependent upon me.

Thanking you for all the kindness and consideration
you have shown me whenever I have come into personal contact with
you.

Yours respectfully,



Mr Roberts

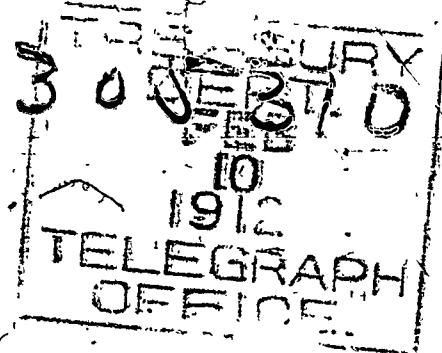
After you have considered
these letters please let me
know what you think.

I hesitate to
cause Fraser more trouble
and loss of time

Yrs

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM



SWU MO 53 NL

SD NEW YORK, Feb 9 1913

Mr George E Roberts, Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr Roberts: I have given the design for the nickel careful study and find, following out your instructions to do nothing which will harm the artistic merit of the work, that I can go no farther and have written to the Secretary of the Treasury at length to that effect. Sincerely yours

J E Fraser

919am

*Mr Roberts thinks these
may should be telegraphed
to come tomorrow*

305310

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

16PO MO 33

TREASURY
DEPT.
FEB
10
1913
TELEGRAPH
OFFICE

WORCESTER Mass Feb 10 1913

Geo E Roberts, Director of Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Cannot conference be postponed until Thursday. Am ill today and my
associate is in Ohio and doubtful if can reach him. Will attend if
absolutely necessary, but it is risky. Wire answer quickly

C W Hobbs

316pm

REC

HEINRICH WOLLHEIM, PRESIDENT,

C. U. CARPENTER, VICE-PRESIDENT AND GEN'L MGR.

CURT WOLLHEIM, SECRETARY-TREASURER

305310

AMERICAN STAMP AND TICKET VENDING MACHINE CO.

Astumco

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

CABLE ADDRESS: ASTUMCO

ABC 5TH EDITION

NEW YORK

30 CHURCH STREET

WORCESTER, MASS. February 10, '13

Mr. Geo. E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

We are using the new nickel which you loaned to Mr. Henson every day and shall be for some little time to come. On receiving same from Mr. Henson I requested an extension of time beyond the 10th of February, but have not received word from you, although I understood you to grant this extension verbally last week at the Mint in Philadelphia. No doubt you will receive a communication from Mr. Henson in regard to the matter and I trust the extension will be granted as it would be very embarrassing to us to have to suspend our study at this point.

Yours truly,

AMERICAN STAMP AND TICKET VENDING MACHINE CO.

By

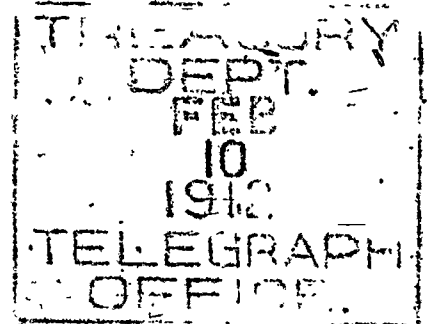
C. W. Hobbs
Treasurer. *C. W. S.*

CWH.S

305310

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM



PO NO 26

BT NEW YORK Feb 10 1913

George E Roberts, Treasury Department,
Washington, D.C.

Telegram received. Have business engagements all of tomorrow, which
I cannot break without serious financial loss to me. Can be in
Washington, Wednesday morning. Very sorry

J E Fraser

253pm

305310

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

22WU MO 66NL

TREASURY
DEPT.
FEB
11
1912
TELEGRAM
OFFICE

NEW YORK Feb 10 1913

George E Roberts, Director
Washington, D.C.

referring to your telegram received today and my answer thereto.
Could you kindly advise me by telegraph whether the conference
referred to in both of our telegrams is to be between yourself, the
secretary and myself or whether the detecting machine people are
to be present at the conference and if so I can properly have
someone with me to aid me in the conference.

From the Secretary:

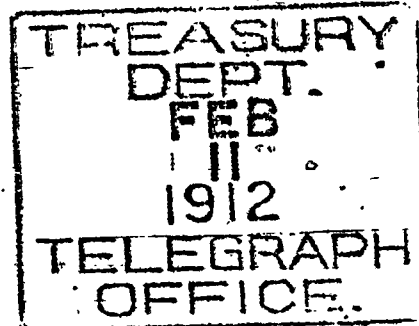
Have answered that there is no
objection to his having an apologist.

J E Fraser

I want to suggest that you have an
apologist (perhaps a historian or general manager of the 959am
the Commission) to assist in determining whether the
the Bureau's benefit of the Com. is better than the other side.

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM



20WU MO. 50NL

CHICAGO Ills Feb 10 1913

Hon Franklin MacVeagh, Secretary
Washington, D.C.

Awfully sorry to learn of the opposition to the new nickel. Hope you will be able to put it through, no matter what compromises may be necessary as I feel anything would be better than the old one and that the bending machine may not be permanently effective against counterfeits

Eames MacVeagh

953am



OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

305310
JH.
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

February 10, 1913.

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Treasury.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I think you should give an interview to Mr. Hobbs, who represents the Automatic Vending Machine Company, before you give your final order for coinage to proceed. I would have suggested such an interview before but I have always been confident that he and Fraser would reach an agreement there has seemed to be so little between them. I am greatly disappointed by their failure to do so. I met them at the Mint last week and failing to achieve an agreement sent them away with the understanding that Mr. Fraser would report to me today. I have now requested both him and Mr. Hobbs to come here on Friday, next, for a final conference. I feel that you should meet and hear Mr. Hobbs and be fully informed before final action is taken. The importance of the automatic vending machine has grown upon me during the negotiations and I think the question of whether it shall be ignored or not should be decided now upon broad grounds of public policy without regard to the history of the negotiations with Mr. Fraser up to this time. That the latter has done his work well cannot be questioned but we can better pay him and throw his work away than adopt it if to do so is contrary to sound public policy. I am not saying that this should be done but I am sure that the matter is important enough for you to hear both sides and make the decision yourself. Of course, the question is much larger than that of consideration for a private industry. It is that of dealing with a public utility.

I am sorry not to have the conference before Friday but Mr. Fraser could not come tomorrow and I must be in attendance upon the Annual Assay Commission at Philadelphia on Wednesday and Thursday.

Respectfully,

Director of the Mint.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

INCORPORATED

25,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD

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THEO. N. VAIL, PRESIDENT

1365 Ridge Ave., Phone Poplar 797

BELVIDERE BROOKS, GENERAL MANAGER

RECEIVED AT

Money Transferred by Telegraph & Cable

30-P.F.39.

CP- NEWYORK.N.Y.FEBY 13TH, 1913.

GEORGE E. ROBERTS,

DIRECTOR OF THE MINT, THE U.S. MINT...PHILA.

UNDERSTAND FROM HOBBS REITH IS NOT TO BE AT CONFERENCE
 FRIDAY I FEEL HIS PRESENCE IS INDESPENSIBLE FOR FAIR HEARINGS
 WONT YOU WIRE HOOBS REQUESTING REITHS PRESENCE NEW DETECTING MACHINE
 SHOULD ALSO BE THERE IN FAIRNESS TO ME ALSO THE
 TWO SETS OF SUBS MADE BY ME AT PHILADELPHIA. WHAT TIME IS CONFERENCE
 TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY.

J.E. FRASER.....

1130 AM.



305310

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

February 15, 1913.

Dear Mr. Director:

The matters at issue with regard to the adjustment of the ~~new nickel coin to the requirements of the Astumco slot machine~~ became clear after the hearings yesterday; at which, besides yourself, Mr. Barber of the Philadelphia Mint, Messrs. Hobbs and Carpenter of the Hobbs Manufacturing Company, and their attorneys Messrs. McKenney and Pritchard, Mr. Reith one of the inventors, Mr. Henson representing both inventors, Mr. Fraser, sculptor, and his attorney Mr. Hare, were present. The conclusion I have arrived at is that it would not be judicious to make any further changes in the coin. The effort to make satisfactory changes has been continuous for more than two months; and it is evident to me that Mr. Fraser, to meet the requirements of the Astumco people, has done everything he could do without sacrificing the essentials of his design. On the other hand, the requirements specified by the Astumco representatives, to wit, a clear space between the rim and the rest of the design and a radical change in the cheek of the Indian are, in my judgment, impossible to concede without the practical abandonment of the artistic qualities of the design. This is not simply my opinion, but is the opinion of the sculptor, who has shown himself a man of great personal tolerance, and of various high authorities who have written me within a day or two.

But even these concessions the representatives of the slot machine were not able to assure us would be sufficient. They said

frankly that the solution would still depend upon trials and tests after these changes had been made.

At the same time it was a fact that changes in the machine -- in the effort to accommodate it to the new coin -- had already been made; and I was impressed with the fact that the inventors were not at all at the end of their possibilities -- so that a solution may be found in further changes in the machine rather than in further changes in the coin.

Other slot machines would probably not be effected by a new coin as the Astumco would be; and this would seem to be the reason why no other has been heard from. It was stated in the conference that seventy machines had been entered in competition at the Post Office Department, indicating a far larger number of slot machines than I had supposed existed. None, however, as I have said, of these machines has entered any objections to the new coin. The Astumco machine alone makes any suggestions. And in this connection it is necessary to call attention to the fact that the Astumco nickel slot machine is a new one, not yet much introduced -- scarcely at all introduced. It still has its way to make; and it is still a question whether it will acquire a wide field. At least one of the large users has decided that this machine is as yet not at such a stage of perfection nor at such a price as would justify their using it. Altogether, therefore, the commercial interests involved in this case are not relatively important. They are but a very small fraction of the slot machine interests.

I am definitely impressed by the fact that the design as it now

~~has become under Mr. Fraser's efforts to adjust it, should stand.~~

It is fortunate that the commercial interests involved are relatively slight; for one must always be impressed in such a case by the claims of business. It is of course true that only the most serious business considerations should stand in the way of the improvement of the coinage; and this particular coin has great claims of its own because of its special quality. If we should stop new coinage -- which is always allowed every twenty-five years -- for any commercial obstacles less than imperative we should have to abandon a worthy coinage altogether. This would be a most serious handicap to the art of the Nation; for scarcely any form of art is more influential than an artistic coin, where the coin is widely circulated.

You will please, therefore, proceed with the coinage of the new nickel.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin MacVeagh

Hon. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint.

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

File
February 21, 1913.

Dear Mr. Hare:

I received yours of February 19th and, meanwhile, I had asked Mr. Fraser to tell you that I had decided the matter of the coinage of the nickel. This I did on last Saturday. Mr. Roberts did not, however, announce it for a day or two. The Mint began to work on the coin last Monday morning.

Mr. Roberts had a talk over the telephone with one of the parties you referred to, after you were here, and your impressions about the matter as stated at the conference were confirmed.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Franklin MacVeagh
Meredith Hare, Esq.,
20 Exchange Place,
New York, N. Y.

MEREDITH HARE
COUNSELLOR AT LAW

305310
20 Exchange Place

New York Feb. 19th, 1913.

Hon. Franklin MacLean

2829, 16th St. Washington

Dear Mr. Secretary

I sincerely apologize for addressing this to your residence.

The only reason upon which I may possibly excuse myself is that I fear there might be some delay in its reaching you through its being filed in your office, as I am afraid has been the case on one or two instances in correspondence about the final striking of the new nickel designed by Mr. Fraser which you have so kindly praised.

You will remember, I think, that on Friday, February 14th, when the hearing was held before you upon your order, I asked you if you would not write to the New York Telephone Co., requesting them to furnish you with figures, showing how much they lost weekly, monthly or yearly through fake coins going through their slot machines, and also what their attitude is towards any new machine, (including the Hobbs Manufacturing Co's. machine, or the same machine being advertised by the American Stamp & Ticket Vending Machine Co.) if indeed they know anything about it. You will remember also, I think, that Mr. Hobbs and the others interested in the coin-detecting machine, exhibited by them to you at the hearing, stated that their machine was already on trial in the subway of the Hudson & Manhattan R. R. Co., and that the latter Company had expressed great satisfaction with it. To-day I have had an interview with Mr. Wilbur Fiske, the executive officer of the Hudson & Manhattan R. R. Co., who has charge of such matters, and he showed me a copy of a letter he had sent to the agent of the Hobbs Manufacturing Co. telling him that the Hudson & Manhattan R. R. Co. was entirely dissatisfied with the coin-detecting

machine and required him to have them all removed from the railroad's premises. This letter from the copy showed me by Mr. Wilbur Fiske was dated February 10th and yet our conference was not held till February 14th, and I am sure you will remember that those representing the detecting machine cited the Hudson & Manhattan R. R. Co. as a particular case showing the effectiveness of their machine.

My plea is, Mr. Secretary, that you have directed as soon as possible a letter to both the New York Telephone Co., 15 Dey Street, New York City, and to Mr. Wilbur Fiske, Hudson & Manhattan R. R., 30 Church Street, New York, or to the latter Company generally, if you so see fit, requesting them to send you the information spoken of at the hearing and referred to above.

I renew my apologies, and hope that you will excuse my addressing as I have - the time is so short and the new design seems to hang in the balance.

I should hesitate much longer than I have in writing you at your residence, except for the expressions of approval and admiration for the new design you so appreciatively made at the hearing on February 14th last.

Respectfully yours,

Murdoch MacFarlane

3 Macdougall Alley,

Manhattan,

New York City, N.Y.,

Feb. 21st, 1913.

George E. Roberts, Esq.,

Director of the Mint,

Treasury Department,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Roberts:-

I have received your letter of the 19th enclosing formal voucher for me to sign, and asking me to return the same signed by me; the description of service reading, "Preparation of designs, obverse and reverse, for a new five-cent nickel piece and incidental expenses connected therewith, as per agreement dated Dec. 18th, 1912", which service is dated in voucher as of Jan. 6th, 1913.

I have signed the above and return it herewith, however, in order to comply with the request in your letter of the 19th, that I sign the enclosed voucher and let the matters of my actual cash disbursements and services required by the Hobbs Mfg. Co., and which you requested me to perform, and in writing you and sending the formal voucher, I am sure you will understand my position.

You will remember that on Sept. 16th, 1912, you wrote me that "the President gave him (Secretary MacVeagh) carte blanche

G.E.R. -2-

to go ahead, so I understand the matter is settled". It is true, of course, that there was no formal acceptance of the design until your letter of Oct. 18th, 1912, but is it not a fact that from long before Sept. 16th or Dec. 18th, 1912, you had frequently asked me to confer with the Hobbs Manufacturing Co., Mr. Hobbs and others with the only idea of trying to make the design, and coin finally struck from the dies made from the design fit the coin-detecting machine and was it within our understanding when I was first requested to make the designs that I should include within my understanding such matters as conferring with the Hobbs people and giving so much of my time trying to meet their demands, when as far as I know their objections were not known to even you and Secretary MacVeagh? As early as the latter part of July, 1912, you spoke verbally to me of the objections certain slot-machine people were making, and in the latter part of August, 1912, you will remember you asked me to comply with their requirements as far as I could without injuring the design. It seems to me that it is just at this point where I began to make disbursements and render services, always, however, as I have said, at your request, in order to make the coin fit the machine.

Therefore I believe that the following disbursements and services (between July, 1912, and Dec. 18th, 1912) should be paid besides the amount stated in the voucher signed and returned herewith, and which is signed and returned on the understanding that it will not foreclose me on the question of my right to be heard further on the propriety and legality of the following itemized, as far as possible, statement of disbursements and services:

G.E.R. -3-

July 9 & 10, 1912,	Actual disbursements on trip to Wash- ington (2 days) at Secretary MacVeagh's request,	\$25.00
July 16, 1912,	Actual disbursements of trip to see Mr. French at Secretary MacVeagh's request,	5.50
Sept. 8 - 9, 1912,	Actual disbursements on visit to Wash- ington to see Secretary MacVeagh at Mr. Roberts' request,	24.75
Nov. 14, 1912,	Actual disbursements on trip to Wash- ington to show Secretary MacVeagh and Mr. Roberts the electro-plate reductions as "sweatted" together,	23.40
Dec. 15 - 16, 1912,	Actual disbursements on visit to Wash- ington to see Secretary MacVeagh at Mr. Roberts' request,	26.00
	Services from about September 16th to Dec. 18th, 1912, in conferences with Mr. Hobbs, Mr. Reith, the inventor, and Mr. Carpenter, and attempting by remodelling etc., etc., to meet demands of Mr. Hobbs, all at the request of Mr. Roberts, covering in the aggregate 720 hours,	720.00
	N.B. I have figured my time at \$1.00 an hour, which I am confident any com- petent artist will say is very low indeed.	
		\$824.65

I feel, further, that the following disbursements and services (between Dec. 18th, 1912 and Feb. 14th, 1913, inc.) should also be paid to me, and there is just about equal equity in this and the last. I have separated them here because in a way they might be legally considered on a slightly different basis:

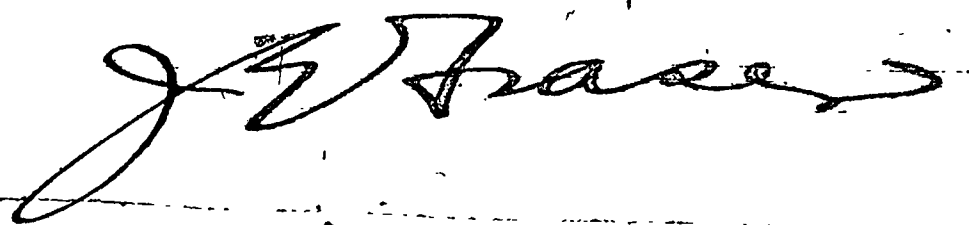
G.E.R. -4-

Jan. 7, 1913,	Actual disbursements on trip to Philadelphia at Mr. Roberts' request,	7.50
Feb. 14, 1913,	Actual disbursements on trip to Washington at Secretary MacVeagh's request through Mr. Roberts,	50.00
	Services since Dec. 18, 1912, to and including Feb. 14, 1913, in conference with Mr. Hobbs, Mr. Reith, and making further attempts to satisfy the requirements of Mr. Hobbs and the others, all at the request of Mr. Roberts, covering in the aggregate 504 hours,	504.00
	N.B. Here again I have figured my time at \$1.00 an hour, and am as confident as possible that any competent artist would say is very low indeed.	
		\$561.50

I am writing you thus fully because I feel it is quite possible you or Secretary MacVeagh really hardly appreciate how much time and actual cash disbursements, which especially as to my time in this case makes a seriously discouraging showing, when I confront the opportunities I have missed because of the criticism of the coin-detecting machine people, which I felt I have had to meet point by point because you and Secretary MacVeagh requested me to, and also because of the loyalty of ordinary human nature.

Thanking you for your letter of the 19th inst., and trusting I may hear from you in the very near future,

Yours very truly,



305310
~~305310~~

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

February 21, 1913.

encl 2-21-13

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I beg to request that I be authorized to have two copies of the Assay Commission medal struck for the Cabinet.

When here, you verbally authorized me to place specimens of the different varieties of the new five-cent nickel piece in the Cabinet. Can I have two specimens of the first variety and two of the large diameter variety struck and placed in the Cabinet, or will you supply them from those sent to the Bureau?

Respectfully,

Robert A. Morris

- Acting Superintendent.

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

Dear Mr. Roberts: 24

I have received from you
two vouchers, one for myself
and one for Mr. Weil. In the
latter there is only one set of
hubs provided for, you will
remember that you ordered a
second set, which with the
first is now in Philadelphia.

Please send another voucher
to Mr. Weil for the second set
at the same price.

Very sincerely

J. E. Chase

305310
Meredith Hare
COUNSELLOR AT LAW

20 Exchange Place
New York Feb. 24th, 1913.

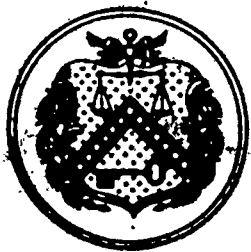
Hon. Franklin MacFarlane
Secretary of the Treasury

Dear Mr. Secretary:-

Thank you very much for your note of the 21st inst., which I have only just received as the last two days have been holidays, and I have not been at my office. Mr. Fraser told me on Friday last, I think, of the letter that you had written to him, and I can say from personal observation Mr. Fraser has been a different man since your decision. It was kind of you to ask Mr. Fraser to let me know about the decision, because although I have the interest of the average citizen in our coinage I was particularly interested in this particular case on account of Fraser for whom I acted simply as a friend.

Thanking you for the great courtesy you showed us at the hearing in Washington, and with kindest regards

Yours respectfully,
Meredith Hare



COPY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON February 24, 1913.

OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

Mr. J. E. Fraser,
3 MacDougal Alley,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Fraser:

I have your letter of the 21st instant and have carefully noted its contents. The enclosed voucher with your signature is also at hand but in view of the contents of the letter I shall, of course, take no action upon the voucher until we have reached a complete understanding as to your compensation. I will return the voucher if you wish.

I am personally very desirous of adjusting the compensation to your satisfaction and I know the Secretary feels the same way about it. I am, however, embarrassed by your bill for expenses and services running back of January 6, 1913, which is the date when the dies were given "a successful working test".

It is true that as long ago as last summer and at other times during the fall months I asked you to confer with Mr. Hobbs and to endeavor to adapt your design to the operations of his coin detecting machine. It should be considered, however, that at this time we had not determined finally that your design would be accepted and a new coin issued. We were still dealing with the subject tentatively and the question whether the coin could be adapted to the slot machines or not was a factor in the proposition.

In your letter you speak about a formal acceptance of the design in my letter of October 18, 1912, but as I cannot find any letter to you of that date I conclude that you must refer to the letter of December 18, 1912.

The only point over which there can be any difference between us is as to just what services the \$2,500 was intended to cover. You will doubtless recall that on your visit over here December 15-16, 1912, I broached the subject of your compensation. This was the first meeting we had after my letter of September 16th. At this meeting I sought to reach an understanding with you as to what your compensation should be for all services rendered up to that time and including such additional labor as might be necessary to prepare the designs and dies for the test. It was then agreed that we relieve you of Mr. Weil's bill for making the dies and pay you \$2,500 for your services. On December 18, 1912, I embodied this understanding in the formal letter of acceptance and secured the Secretary's approval. This letter seems to be very clear in its terms and as it is now a part of the records of the Department it must be used as the basis of settlement. I certainly understood at the time that the \$2,500 was to cover all of your labor and services up to that time and so much more as would be necessary to prepare the dies for the successful working test. If it was in your mind at the time that this sum was simply to pay for your design and that you were to be paid an additional sum for your efforts to adapt the design to the Hobbs' machine it seems to me that you should have expressed yourself at the time and stated how much more you wanted for that work. You did have it in mind that in addition to the \$2,500 we should pay Mr. Weil's bill and you did name this condition but you said nothing about additional pay for work with Mr. Hobbs.

I am willing to concede that for additional work done after the trial
~~of the dies on January 6, 1913, for the sole purpose of adapting the design~~
to the machine you are entitled to additional compensation and I do not con-
sider your bill for this work excessive; Indeed, I might assent to its being
~~slightly larger, sufficiently so to offset your personal expenses in visiting~~
Washington at the request of the Secretary and myself upon the several
occasions since last July. I am of the opinion, however, that the Comptroller
of the Treasury, who is an independent official with final authority over
all disbursements, will decline to allow payment in excess of \$2,500 for any
services rendered or dated prior to January 6, 1913.

As the time for disposing of this matter is now brief kindly reply
promptly and oblige

Very truly yours,

George E. Roberts

Director of the Mint.

3 Macdougal Alley,

New York City.

Feb. 26th, 1913.

George E. Roberts, Esq.,

Director of the Mint,

Treasury Department,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Roberts:-

Your letter of the 29th inst. reached me yesterday, and I am answering it with all possible haste. I shall try to do so by taking up each of the paragraphs in order as they appear in your letter.

(1) You say you are embarrassed by my bill for expenses and services running back of January 6th, 1913, which was the date when the dies were given "a successful test". I take it here you refer to your letter to me of December 18th, 1912, which letter reads in part "you are authorized to complete and perfect the designs, x x x x x x x x, and upon the completion of the same and the final acceptance of the models, and after a successful working test of the dies, you will be paid as full compensation for the same and for your incidental expenses in connection the sum of \$2,500." I don't feel myself that it is reasonable to take these last words as including any services or incidental expenses except those necessary to complete the "models", which was really a very simple thing for me to do,

~~unless the Hobbs people had kept at me all the time and so I had~~
 been required not only to "complete the models", but also to make
 all kinds of experiments in trying to satisfy the Hobbs people, and
 really, as it seems to me, still at your request - ~~I knew the Hobbs~~
~~people had been coming in continuously up to before December 18th,~~
~~1912, and I had met them as far as I could at your written or spoken~~
 request. If, however, you had no knowledge of my continued efforts
 to meet the Hobbs' people demands made between December 18th, 1912,
 and January 6th, 1913, and did not expect me to make these efforts,
 then I can see how I have worked, for no one is liable as to this
 particular time.

Quite beyond this of course, however, are my claims for
 disbursements and services before December 18th, 1912, and the part
 of my second claim at least from January 7th to February 14th, 1913.

(2) Taking up the third paragraph of your letter, I do
 remember that on December 15th, 1912, when I was in Washington you
 spoke of the subject of my compensation and my recollection of what
 was agreed upon is the same as yours, except that I did not under-
 stand that the further disbursements made and services to be rendered
 by me included such a heart-breaking series of conferences and at-
 tempts to satisfy the Hobbs people between December 18th, 1912, and
 January 6th, 1913, and even as late as February 14th last. These
 services and disbursements all practically made necessary by the
 Hobbs people and performed after December 18th, 1912, could not very
 well have been even considered in our conversation, because as I
 understood the formal approval in your letter of December 18th, 1912,
 (not October 18th, 1912 as erroneously stated in my last letter later)

did not in any way contemplate any further things to be done by me except completing models; furthermore, I cannot see how the formal approval (December 18th, 1912) contemplates in any way that the \$2,500.00 there mentioned shall cover my time or expenses in preparing the dies.

~~In paragraph 5 of your letter (top of p.2) you say you~~ understood at the time of our speaking, December 15-16-, 1912; that the \$2500.00 should cover everything to date "and so much more as would be necessary to prepare the dies for the successful working test". I must say I cannot see just how the formal approval, December 18th, 1913, contains or implies any such conclusion as seems so plain to you - it's just a question of seeing things differently, and no fault on either side.

Further in paragraph 5 of your letter (top p.2) you write that if I had been expected to be paid further for my efforts to, adapt the coin to the machine, I should have spoken of it to you - naturally never a thought of such a thing came into my mind for what else could I infer from your conversation than that it meant an approval by the Secretary and not an approval to be subject to the Hobbs' people further criticism.

In making the same kind of argument in the very last sentence of this paragraph, my answer is exactly the same, how could I have had in my mind possibilities that our very conference itself excluded.

Finally I trust I have not made my letter too long. If my arguments do not alter yours or Secretary MacVeagh's opinions as

stated in your letter, will you not please send me a voucher for such further compensation as you think I am entitled to, explained in the next to the last paragraph of your letter; I will then return it signed.

I hope that Secretary MacVeagh may have an opportunity to look over these papers.

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

J. V. Chase

February 28, 1913.

My dear Mr. Hillen:

I have your letter of February 26, enclosing one from Clarence W. Hobbs. I had previously taken from the President a copy of this letter and also a copy of Hobbs' attack on the new nickel. I sent these to Mr. Roberts to encourage him in treating the next man who comes along with the same extraordinary patience and courtesy with which both he, Mr. Fraser the sculptor, and I treated Hobbs. Hobbs caused us a delay of about three months in the issuing of this coin, and I finally had to decide the case against him for the simple reason that his demands could not be met. This was done a week or two ago in my office, where we had a full hearing. In return for this, Hobbs sends these delectable communications to the President.

Every once in a while a public official is inclined to think, from his unshared experiences, that the only way to get the gratitude of the individuals who claim his time is to treat them with marked rudeness and discourtesy. Certainly Hobbs got all the time and attention out of this administration that any administration could afford to give to one manufacturing corporation.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Franklin MacVeagh

Hon. C. D. Hillen,

Secretary to the President.

305310

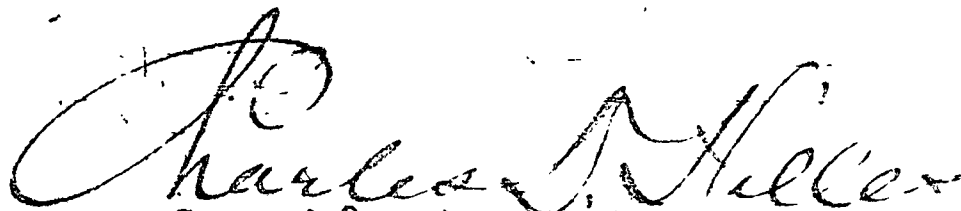
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 26, 1913.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In accordance with the President's
personal notation thereon, I send you
the enclosed letter from Clarence W. Hobbs
protesting against the issue of the newly
designed five cent piece.

Sincerely yours,


Secretary to the President.

Hon. Franklin MacVeagh,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Enclosure.

Washington, D. C.,

February 19, 1913.

Sir:

In connection with the proposed issue of a new five cent coin by the Government the undersigned in behalf of the Hobbs Manufacturing Company of Worcester, Massachusetts, the American Stamp and Ticket Vending Machine Company of New York and Edward F. Henson, Trustee, of Philadelphia, begs to call certain facts to your attention and to bespeak your consideration of them.

1. That up to the present time there have been no efficient mechanical means for separating genuine coins from counterfeiters, foreign coins, imitation coins, and disks of metal identical in size with genuine coin and having the same magnetic quality. Machines to accomplish this end have recently been invented by persons for whom Mr. Henson is Trustee, built and perfected by the Hobbs Manufacturing Company and are now being introduced on the market by the American Stamp and Ticket Vending Machine Company.

2. These machines are of high efficiency, operating successfully to separate genuine from false coins, even though the genuine coin be so worn as to still retain only a dim remnant of the original design. The machines are based upon the standard design of American Subsidiary Coinage which has been uniformly followed by the Government since this coinage was authorized. The invention is designed for the

use of banks, street railway companies, large industrial concerns, mercantile establishments and in automatic vending machines for selling railroad tickets, postage stamps, postal savings stamps, various articles of merchandise and for many other purposes.

3. When the announcement was made of the purpose of the Government to issue a five cent piece to supplant the coin now in use, the undersigned immediately got into communication with the Director of the Mint, requesting that the new coin when prepared should be made to contain the same proving points that exist in the coin now in use in order that the same selecting machine might be made to select both of these coins and at the same time reject all not genuine. It was found that the design of the artist need be modified in only two slight, and, as we claim, unimportant particulars, namely, to provide a rim and a narrow section of the field just within the rim of the same depth, .007 of an inch in depth and .003 of an inch in width, which is precisely the distance now existing on the standard coin between the outer edges of the stars and the inner edge of the fret work; also to provide in the center of the coin by a modification of the Indian face a flat space $1/4$ of an inch in diameter, but the artist refused to alter his design in any particular and his refusal has been upheld by the Honorable Secretary of the Treasury, to whom the officials of the Mint at the last instance referred our request for decision.

4. In the view of those whom I directly represent the coin proposed to be issued is open to many serious objections.

(a) It is not susceptible of mint finish, so called, but has a dull appearance similar to lead and for that reason may be more readily counterfieted.

(B) The roughened surface makes it particularly favorable for carrying dirt and disease germs from hand to hand.

(c) The various inscriptions required by law are rendered so subordinate to the artistic design as to be in many cases almost illegible and in all cases hard to distinguish particularly if used by persons of impaired vision or in poorly lighted places.

(d) The token of value upon the one side and the date line upon the other in addition to being difficult to distinguish is placed close to the surface of the coin and are only .003 of an inch in depth, whereas the depth of these characters on the standard coin is .007. Consequently, when the coin has received $\frac{3}{7}$ of the wear which the standard coin is capable of taking, the token of value will have been entirely worn away and the coin will cease to be a legal tender.

(e) For the entire time since the present subsidiary coinage was authorized there has been a recognized standard of design, giving a well defined substantial rim around the edge and a well defined field within surrounding the relief on the coin. Based upon this construction these machines have been

designed to detect false coins from the genuine, the inventions have been patented and the Government has accepted fees from the inventors for such patents. The proposed coin has no fiend extending around the coin inside the rim, and as a result all of the machines for detecting counterfeit coins based upon the standard design of coin would, if this proposed coin be issued, be rendered valueless and without any reason given, except that in the opinion of a few the artistic appearance of the coin would be greater were such field omitted. It is maintained that the alleged desirability for a change in coin to increase its artistic appearance should not be carried to the extent of destroying property based upon United States patent previously issued.

(5) The demand for machines for the automatic detection of counterfeits and the separation of false from genuine coins has existed for many years. In response to this demand a very large number of machines have been made but none of them until the machine herein referred to was perfected have been successful. Repeated public trials have demonstrated that it unerringly separates all imitation and foreign coins from the genuine, also all molded counterfeits and all die struck counterfeits that have been submitted up to the present time.

6. The five cent coin is the most used coin issued by the Government. It probably figures in more daily transactions than all the other subsidiary coins. It is used in particular for the purchase of tickets for street railways, tickets for

places of amusement, soda fountains and for innumerable articles of merchandise in common daily use. It is claimed that this coin is primarily intended as a medium of exchange, and not as an object lesson in art and that as a medium of exchange it should be designed in such a manner as to be used with the least discomfort on the part of the public and with the greatest efficiency. The illigibility of the markings upon the new coin will very greatly interfere with its convenient use, and if it cannot be used in the coin detecting machines, it will lose a great part of its efficiency. The coin in use during the past twenty-five years is ideal in this regard.

7. The demand for the use of coin operated vending machines has existed for more than a score of years. Many attempts to produce such a machine had been made, but, except for one cent values, have not come into general use because there have been no efficient means for keeping out counterfeit, foreign and imitation coins. The expensive use of the one cent machines has proven the popularity with the public. The extension of the use of such machines to articles of five cent value would add incalculably to the convenience of the public and effect very great economy in distribution. The undersigned has in his possession at the present time applications for machines for automatic vending of postage stamps, post cards, stamped envelopes; savings stamps from a large metropolitan savings bank; insurance policies from one of the leading accident insurance companies; tickets from street

railway companies; tickets from amusement houses; from a large confectionery house for machines to vend its products; from a very large department store syndicate for machines for vending toilet articles, articles of personal wear, etc; from a large baking firm for machines for vending bread and other food products; from a large manufacturer of popcorn products. All these articles are to be vended in five cent values. The issuance of the proposed five cent coin will indefinitely defer the possibility of meeting these demands.

8. The Post Office Department of the Government has for many years conducted competitive files of machines for automatic sale of postage stamps. More than seventy-five machines have been submitted, but none of them approved. Another competition has lately been invited, the proposal coming from the Post Office Department to the undersigned within the past ten days. We are preparing to submit machines for one cent, two cent, five cent and ten cent values but if the proposed coin be issued in the exact form now proposed the Government will not be able to obtain such machines for five cent values, but only for the other values stated.

9. For the above reasons and for many others which might be given I respectfully request that the issuance of the proposed five cent coin be deferred until such time as it can be brought, in its proof points, into substantial relation with the five cent coin now in use, in order that the public may be given the advantage of the inventions for the automatic detection by mechanical means of counterfeit, foreign and

imitation coins, which have now been carefully perfected and thoroughly tested and ready to be placed in the hands of the public.

I am, sir, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

Clarence W. Hoob

To The President.

305310

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

18PO MO 13/12

BT NEW YORK March 1 1913

George E Roberts, Treasury Department,
Director of the Mint, Washington, D.C.

Your letter received. Voucher is alright will send it to the mint

J E Fraser

234pm

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

Dear Mr Roberts,

Thank you for your
kind letter of March
second. I understand

the situation in regard
to any payment for
work done before December
18th /12. And I thank

you for your fair
adjustment of the
question.

I would be glad
to have you lunch with
me when you are in
New York and to have you
see some of the work
in my other studies

Faithfully yours

JW Mason

305310

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

March 3, 1913.

Bureau of the mint
REC. MAR 5 1913

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I beg to inform you that the two vouchers for
Mr. J. E. Fraser— one for \$2500.00 and the other for
\$666.15 have been received today and checks for these
amounts sent him.

The voucher for \$400.00, in favor of Mr. Weil, has
not yet come to hand.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis

Superintendent.

305310

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

3 - 13 - '13.

Hon. George E. Roberts,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Roberts; -

Because I thought it would interest you I obtained permission from the Superintendent to send you for inspection a specimen of the Belgian coins of Albert I. which have just arrived this week. The features that will interest you are the unusually low relief and the "hardness" of the modelling. The relief is probably the lowest ever really modelled for such purposes; and yet the head "stands out" well, because it is so well modelled.

Every feature is clear and the portrait is certainly excellent. The "hardness" of the modelling is remarkable and interesting, too. In that respect it is just the opposite of our new nickel Five-cent piece, which is so softly modelled. It is interesting to note that Fraser's Indian and buffalo are done in the same style as the portrait of George V. by Makennel on the British coins.

The Belgian coin is by Devreese, as you will note on the coin itself. Devreese is one of the greatest of living medallists, if not the greatest since the death of Chaplain and Roty. We have some of D's. medals and they are very superior. He was the artist who won the first prize at the great International Exhibition of Medals, held in New York two years ago, or three, I believe. That was the greatest exhibition of medals ever brought together on either continent, and on which an American citizen, Mr. A.H. Huntington, spent fifty thousand dollars - yet none of the engravers at the mint considered it worth his while to go to New York to see it!!

Had the criticisms you made on the handling of the inscriptions and the treatment of the types on the new Nickel, the day you and Mr. James Mac Veagh were over here, been heeded by the artist, the most of the objections now raised to the piece would have been avoided. Fraser failed in his composition.

Could we secure the original models of the new Five-cent piece? It is hard to see why they should remain in the possession of the artist; and if obtainable I should be delighted to have them for exhibition in the wall case. The original models would please many who now criticise the coins, because the inscriptions would be more distinct and the types better adapted to the field in the large model than in the coin. If we could not get the plaster model then we certainly should have the bronze replica from which the die-sinker made the hub - lest he make some more hubs.

I shall soon be able to send you the Ramsden pamphlets on Chinese coins.

Very respectfully,

A. L. Bonaparte

194 N. WABASH AVENUE

March Eighteenth.
Nineteen Thirteen.

Hon. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Roberts:-

That delightful little book containing the story of the Banks of the United States, turned up at last and I am now enjoying it greatly, and wish to thank you for it once more. It was very kind of you to think of me in that connection.

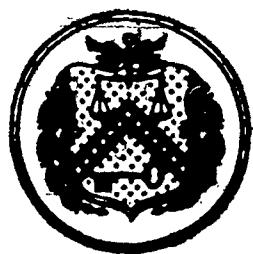
Are the mints continuing the uninterrupted coinage of the new nickle? I don't hear any further discussion in this connection. Has there been any demand for the inscription "In God we trust", such as I believe there was when the new penny came out?

With kind personal regards,

I am,

Very faithfully yours,

James M. Keogh.



OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

March 18, 1913.

305310

Memorandum for the Secretary relative to the new nickel.

The first step in the negotiations for the new nickel piece was taken by Assistant Secretary Andrew in 1911. As a result of his interest in the subject Mr. J. E. Fraser of New York, upon his own initiative, prepared several small wax models showing the Indian head and the buffalo about as they now appear upon the coin, although in somewhat higher relief. Mr. Fraser was a pupil of Augustus Saint Gaudens and much interested in the latter's work upon our gold coins. He shared in Saint Gaudens' feeling that our coins, besides being counters in trade, should be examples in art, exerting an influence upon the artistic taste of the people. It was also his desire to make the new coin characteristically American in its type. Assistant Secretary Andrew and myself were both pleased with his designs and submitted them and introduced him to Secretary MacVeagh. The latter was pleased with the piece but cautious about committing himself to a change in the coin. He inclined to the opinion that if changes were to be made other artists should be invited to compete. The matter rested at this stage for some time and although there was more or less discussion over it, and interviews with artists and connoisseurs, it was nearly a year before the Secretary took up the subject seriously. By this time he had made up his mind that if any change was to be made he wanted the Fraser designs. Mr. Fraser was requested to lower the relief and, if practicable, increase

the size of the lettering showing the denomination. It was now midsummer, 1912. The Secretary was satisfied with the designs as modified, but wished them submitted to the Fine Arts Commission. The Commission was scattered, and it was necessary to see the members individually. All who saw the models gave cordial approval to them. I am handing you herewith letters from Cass Gilbert, Edwin Howland Blashfield, and Daniel C. French. I am sure we also had a letter from Thomas Hastings, but I do not find it in my files. I recall also a letter from Kenyon Cox, but that also is not in the Bureau files. These letters were submitted to the President by the Secretary and the President's approval obtained.

About the time we were ready to go ahead on the dies a Mr. Hobbs of Worcester, Massachusetts, representing the American Stamp and Ticket Vending Machine Company, put in a protest against any change in the designs of the five-cent piece on the ground that this Company had developed an automatic coin-detecting slot machine, the value of which would be seriously affected by the introduction of a new coin. Mr. Fraser was asked to confer with Mr. Hobbs with a view to making a few minor changes in the coin which it was said would adapt it to the machine. At first the reports from both Mr. Hobbs and Mr. Fraser indicated that this might be done. The designs were finally approved and the first dies ordered on December 18, 1912. The first experimental pieces were struck on January 6th, 1913, but these coins proved objectionable to Mr. Hobbs. After further conference and a slight alteration of the dies a second set of pieces were struck about ten days later. The inventor of the Hobbs machine, who was at the Mint at the time, expressed the belief that the machine would now be able to handle the coin. Later Mr. Hobbs made a further protest and asked for another conference. This time he and Mr. Fraser were invited to come to Washington and meet Secretary

MacVeagh. The latter gave a patient hearing to both and decided that the alterations which Mr. Hobbs demanded, the most serious of which was to ~~flatten the cheek bone of the Indian, would seriously impair the beauty~~ of the design. It also appeared that the Hobbs machine was still in the experimental stage and not in actual use anywhere. It having been represented that the telephone companies were likely to be among the largest users of the machine I communicated with the New York Telephone Company to learn their opinion of its probable importance. The reply was that they had examined the machine but had no thought of adopting it. There were no protests from any other slot machine people. The coin is of the same weight and diameter as the old piece, and works in all other slot machines.

Secretary MacVeagh's decision to go ahead with the coin was conveyed to me in writing, and is attached hereto.

The three mints at Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco are running to their capacity upon these coins and are behind their orders. The actual distribution to the public up to to-day is approximately 18,000,000 pieces (13,900,000).

The statute authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to change the designs upon the coins provides that -

"No change in the design or die of any coin shall be made oftener than once in twenty-five years from and including the year of the first adoption of the design, model, die or hub for the same coin." R. S. 3510, as amended.

There have been two instances in which slight changes have been made in the dies soon after the adoption of the new designs. One of these was in 1908, when the new Saint Gaudens gold coins having proven to be too high in relief to stack, the relief was slightly reduced. The words "In God We Trust" were also restored to these coins, but as this was done by act of Congress

it would not come within the inhibition of the earlier statute. The second instance was in 1909, when Secretary MacVeagh ordered the initials of the artist, "V. D. B." removed from the one-cent piece on account of their conspicuous position.

I was not Director of the Mint when either of these changes was made, and I do not know whether the language of the statute was taken into consideration or not. At any rate the changes were so slight that they cannot be said to conflict with the spirit of the statute however it might be strictly interpreted.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George E. Roan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Director of the Mint.

305310

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

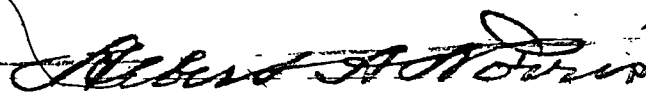
March 31, 1913.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I beg leave to report that there have been received,
addressed to the Curator, the bronze models of the new five-
cent nickel piece from the artist, Mr. James E. Fraser, No. 3
Macdougall Alley, New York.

Respectfully,



Acting Superintendent.

305310

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

4/1/1913

Dear Mr Roberts

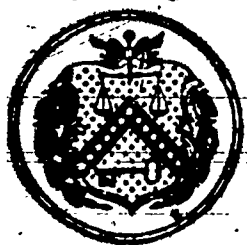
I have your letter
in reference to the five
cent piece. Other sized
letters can be made and
I am ready to try them
but it strikes me
that the five cents on
the new nickel although
it is small can be seen

clearly, and its meaning
to a foreigner is much
clearer than "one dime"
on the ten cent piece and
the "V cents" on the old nickel.
A coin is known by its
design and when it is
well known it is never
questioned even when the
inscription is entirely worn
away. Not one person
in ten thousand reads the
inscription on a coin before
paying it out.

However if you wish
it I will come to Washington
and we can decide on what
is to be done.

Very sincerely yours

April first J. W. Brown
1913



OFFICE OF ENGRAVER

305310

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

April 21st, 1913.

Ans 22/12
Hon. George E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.

Bureau of the mint
REC. APR 23 1913

Dear Sir:-

Please find enclosed two five cent nickel coins, one showing the change suggested and the other with no change, for comparison.

If you think well of the alteration we could hold up the coinage for a short time while I made a new hub which would not take more than ten days, when we could go on with the coinage. As the demand for this coin appears to have abated I think it would cause no inconvenience.

Respectfully,

B.

Engraver.

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

26WU R 18paid

FX NewYork Apr 25 1913

George E Roberts

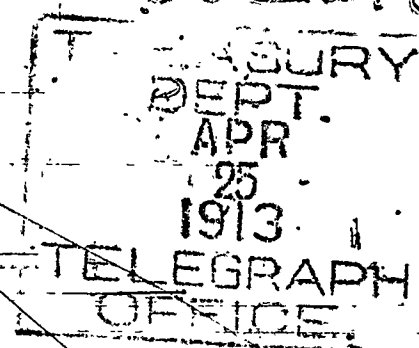
Director of the Mint Washn DC

Am writing you in answer to your letter of April 23rd
will be posted this afternoon.

J E Frasier

410pm

305310





OFFICE OF ENGRAVER

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

April 24th, 1913.

Hon. George E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.

BUREAU OF THE MINT
REC. APR 25 1913

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 23rd just received.

We do not do the gilding at the Mint, we have no facilities for this work.

I have just returned from the gilder who does our work whenever needed and find it is quite possible to copy the color 9/10 fine gold, but the gilder explains that the difference in the surface and design would make 9/10 fine shade differently and therefore, it would be necessary to experiment with different solutions to find which fineness would best give the color of our gold coinage, all of which can be done by any gilder, but would involve expense. Our man uses fine gold only as he has no demand for any other.

I enclose a five cent nickel coin which I think is very close to the 9/10 color, which was done while I waited by using an old solution.

Respectfully,

Engraver.

B.

305310

3 Macdougall Alley,

April 25th, 1913.

George E. Roberts, Esq.,

Director of the Mint,

Treasury Building,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Roberts:-

Your letter of April 22nd last together with enclosure reached me in due course, and it seems to me that the nickel enclosed with the "Five Cents" made clearer is good and does not at all interfere with general design. I have also received your letter of April 23rd last in which you say the Secretary of the Treasury would like to have me come to Washington for a conference about the nickel piece and to telegraph when I can come. As the only change we have talked about in connection with the nickel piece is making the words "Five Cents" stronger, and as this has been done and can even be improved without my assistance, by straightening of letters, etc., I must assume that the conference will cover other matters.

I have given the Secretary's request, sent through you, the most careful consideration and much as I should like to comply therewith and have the honor and pleasure of seeing the Secretary, I am forced to decline his kind invitation. I have matters here that require every hour of my time and thought. You do not tell me what, even as far as your information goes, the Secretary wishes to see me about, though of course I know from your two letters it is in some way connected with the new nickel.

Looking back now I am aware, even more than I was just after the new nickel was approved finally and ordered struck, how much time and worry I spent on the controversies that arose in connection with the so-called coin-detecting machine people, and I should have only myself to blame if any further controversy whatsoever in connection with the nickel and involving me should arise. The fact is frankly that I am in the very midst of work, which I know to be vital to my career and cannot afford any interruption. Of course if the Secretary should be in town and should wish to consult me about anything, in which he thought I might be of use, I should feel it an honor to see him.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,



P.S. I enclose two reverse sides of nickel as requested.

305310

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

April 28, 1913.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

As requested in your letter of the 25th instant,
to Mr. Charles E. Barber, Engraver of this mint, I have
had five of the new design five-cent nickel pieces gilt
with a gold solution made from 900 bullion. Two of these
pieces have been brush-finished by the gilder and they
will be found in the small envelope; the other three are
as they came from the plating bath.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis

Superintendent.

(Enc.)

305310



OFFICE OF ENGRAVER

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

May 6th, 1913.

Hon. John H. Landis,
Superintendent.

Sir:-

I have made the desired change in the Five Cent coin and submit a piece for final approval. If it is satisfactory I can make coining dies at once. If the Director will wire or phone us as soon as he approves the change it will save time and facilitate our resuming coinage.

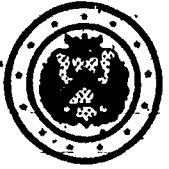
Respectfully,

B.

Chas. E. Barber

Engraver.

305310



ASSISTANT SECRETARY

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Washington, May 23, 1913.

My dear Mr. Roberts:

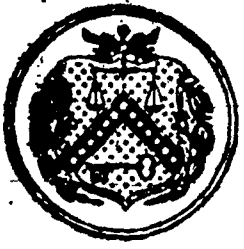
The change suggested by Superintendent Leach of the San Francisco Mint in the lettering of the obverse side of the nickels, especially in the word "Liberty", is approved.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred Thompson".

Assistant Secretary.

Hon. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department.



OFFICE OF ENGRAVER

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

May 27th, 1913.

Hon. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

Your letter of the 24th inst., received and contents noted.

The change suggested can of course be made, whether the life of the die will be increased "fifty per cent" is a correct statement is very doubtful, and only a trial will demonstrate.

It is an open question whether the life of the die is as important a matter as the quality of the coin and I quite agree with you that the dies are run too long and more dies should be used.

There must always be a first and a last point of the die to give out and the question is, which is the more important, if the inscriptions remain good and the Indian head and Buffalo are worn smooth it cannot be claimed as an improvement.

The fact is the design is too large for the size of the coin and no thought has been taken of the necessary inscriptions. The coin has the appearance of having been made with the sole object of covering the whole space with an Indian head on one side and a buffalo on the other, the inscriptions being an after thought.

To make the change it will be necessary to reduce the relief of shoulder of the Indian as the date rests upon the shoulder, to

increase the depth of the date without reducing the shoulder would make matters worse instead of better, it would surely require more pressure to get a perfect impression of the die and that would make the life of the die shorter instead of longer.

We now find that the date is the last place the metal fills and therefore to simply make the date deeper you will readily see would not be an improvement without as said before reducing the relief of the shoulder. *LD*

Your directions were and you now repeat, that any change is not to be "radical", but must be so slight that it would be "scarcely noticable to the public", may I say that any change we may make will be noticable and that we find the coins are referred to by the public and designated according to the change, therefore, would it not be well before making any further change to consider in what way the coin can be improved and make all changes at the same time whether they be radical or not.

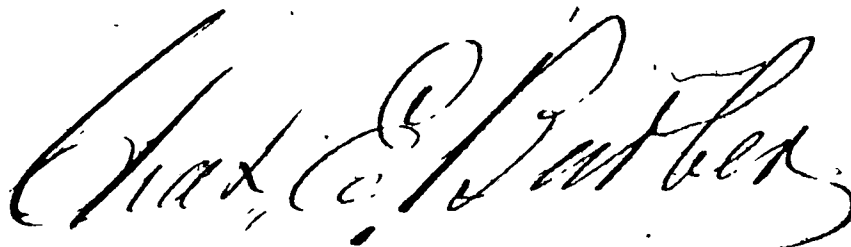
Mr. Clark has just handed me the following which does not bear out the statement that the change already made will make "longer the life of the dies".

Last 12 pairs of dies before change, average per pair 150,168, 12 pairs since change, average per pair 109,389.

Awaiting your further instructions.

Respectfully,

B.



Engraver.

305310

NEW YORK CITY
3 MACDOUGAL ALLEY

Mr. George E. Roberts
Director of the Mint
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Roberts:

I have your letter asking
whether or not the Indian head
on the new nickel was a portrait
or a type. It is a type rather
than a portrait. Before the
nickel was made I had done

several portraits of Indians,
among them Iron Tail, Two
Moons and one or two others,
and probably got characteristics
from those men in the heads
on the coin, but my purpose
was not to make a portrait
but a type.

Hoping this answers your
question adequately.

I remain

With kind regards

J. E. Fraser

Box 119, Georgetown,
Demerara, British Guiana,
South America

Mr. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

In October 1914 you

kindly wrote me a letter relative
to my inquiry as to the information
I had received relative to the
Indian's portrait - on the famous
"Buffalo Nickel". You said "I have
always assumed that the Indian
head on the new nickel was simply
the artist's ideal of the Indian type."

Shortly after I received a similar letter
from former Treasurer Lee McClure,
Yale Class of 1892. Later I met the
Sculptor - James E. Fraser - Macdoug-
all Alley, New York. I told him
that if he used ^{the} face of "Chief Iron
Tail" as reported - I wanted to

include that
fact with the
enclosed
account of
my Yale Class
Dinner - which
was published
in the 10th
Anniversary
History of Yale
1903 - of which
the Class made
me editor in

1913. Mr. Fraser said - "in making
that portrait the face of the
magnificent old Indian, Chief
Iron Tail, was uppermost in
my mind." Later Chief Iron
Tail was in New York with the
101 Ranch at Madison Square
Garden two years ago and
remembering very pleasantly
the Springfield dinner - with
Yale '03 & Buffalo Bill - he
consented to come down - town
when with me - as my guest
he attended a boy scout dinner.
I got him to let me take the above
picture. Cordially,
Dudley P. Lewis.
Yale 1903.

Photograph of Chief

Iron Tail whose

^{Contributed to the}
profile appears on

the buffalo nickel

of 1913.



The above portrait of Chief Iron Tail was taken at the entrance to the Spring Street Neighborhood House, 244 Spring St., New York - in May 1914. Headworker Rev. Tertius van Dyke.

I write these facts both because of your kindness in writing me - and because I was told in Washington - at your department - that people were constantly making inquiries at your office - as to the facts of the Indian profile on the Buffalo nickel.

Dudley P. Lewis
Spring St. Neighborhood House, New York.
Director, Men & Boys' Work - 1913 - 1915.

Son of Dr. Henry van Dyke, Rev. Tertius van Dyke.

Buffalo Bill, Chief Iron Tail and Benjamin American Horse Guests

While there was almost everything and everybody to be found at the Kimball last evening, there was one incident which was new to that hostelry. This was a speech to a party of college men by a full-blooded Sioux Indian in his native tongue, and the other was the entrance to the Kimball of two members of America's fast disappearing race, the Indian. They accompanied Col. William F. Cody, Buffalo Bill, who was the guest of the members of the Class of '03, Yale. This class held a reunion and banquet in one of the private dining-rooms on the second floor of the hotel. The comments of the Indians upon the banquet, the customs, and the boatrace of the afternoon proved to be interesting, especially from their opinion of the college sport.

While there were not so many Yale men of 1903 who were present there were several from other classes who were guests of the '03 men, and in addition, there were several high school boys who are prospective Yale candidates. Covers were laid for 45 persons, and each plate was filled.

At the head of the table sat Buffalo Bill, and at his right sat Dudley P. Lewis, Secretary of the '03 association and the toastmaster of the evening. ~~At the other end sat the two~~ Indians, decked out in full regalia and war paint, but their ferocious appearance was belied by the bland smiles with which they favored the college men, and the quick, keen glances which they cast at each dish as it was brought to them by the waiters.

The banquet was scheduled for 6 o'clock, but it was nearly 7 o'clock before the last guest had been seated. Several courses had been served, when suddenly Col. Cody burst into laughter. One of the Indians was talking animatedly to the college men who sat about him, while the other sat quietly munching his food, and now and then smoking a cigaret. The first was Benjamin American Horse, a young Sioux Indian, who was graduated from the Carlisle Indian school in 1895. He played right end on his college football team. The other was Chief Iron Tail, one of the big chiefs who fought against Gen. Custer in the battles on the Little Big Horn. Horse speaks English fluently, but Iron Tail has never learned the tongue.

Col. Cody's laughter was caused by a communication in sign language from Iron Tail at the other end of the table. Iron Tail signaled to his friend that the dinner came in jerks, and asked if it would be necessary to stay at the hotel all night and eat in order to get filled up. His signs were hardly noticed except by Col. Cody, and after the latter had explained things to him he silently finished his meal.

Mr. Lewis introduced Col. Cody as the first speaker. Col. Cody said that while he was not recorded as such, he is a graduate of Yale, a frontier graduate, so to speak. He said that in 1870, while he was serving as chief of scouts of the American army, Gen. Sheridan told him to prepare an outfit and escort 50 Yale men, under Prof. Marsh, who were coming into that region for geological and fossil study. He accompanied them on the expedition, and he told of the journey from Ft. Laramie across the bad lands and into the Big Horn country.

He told talks on forestry, mineralogy and the fact that at first the students did not pay as much attention to the lecturers as they did to their desire to hunt and shoot. He said that the Indians would sit on their horses on the hills and watch the Yale men at work digging up bones, and they named Prof. Marsh the bone-picker. Some of the leading men of America were in that party, and in later years when Prof. Marsh visited the West, he was still called the bone-picker by the Indians, who could not understand why he should dig for them when buffalo bones were scattered all over the prairie.

He said that yesterday's race between Pennsylvania and Yale was the first intercollegiate boat race that he had ever seen and he thanked the Yale men for their courtesy in asking him to be present. He said that it was getting along toward show time, and that he must leave for his tepee camp. He said that it was the first course dinner at which the Indians had ever sat, and he admonished them to be back at Hampden Park by 7:55 for Iron Tail must be on hand to get killed for his work and as his part of the show.

After Col. Cody left Iron Tail made a speech in the guttural accents of his native Sioux, Benjamin American Horse acting as interpreter. Iron Tail has been with Col. Cody 18 years, and while he said he was more at home eating with his fingers, he handled the various dishes served at the hotel with skill.

He said that he was glad to meet Yale college men and that he was going to tell about the old days when he was at war with the whites. He said that one morning as he was camped on Big Horn creek he heard a soldier's bugle and later saw soldiers crossing the river. He got his war pony and with his braves fired upon the soldiers, who did not know they were near a camp of 1000 tepees and because there was war, Iron Tail and his men killed all the soldiers.

Iron Tail said he did not know then as much as he did now, because since that time he had traveled all over the world and had seen lots of things and had learned much. He said he was sorry he killed the soldiers.

Then he told about the boat race. It was the first college boat race he had ever seen and he said that the crews didn't go as fast as he thought they ought to. He said that years ago when buffalo were plenty they made canoes of buffalo hide. Iron Tail allowed that he wanted to bring one of those canoes here and race the college boys and said he could beat them. His speech was closed with this remark by Benjamin, "That's all we have to say," and the Indians promptly returned to the annihilation of their dinner.

Charles W. Bosworth was the last speaker of the evening, but as little time remained he limited his remarks to a brief reference to "Yale spirit." The members of the 1903 class who were present last evening were as follows: Pierrepont B. Foster of New Haven, Conn., James O. Putnam of New York, Perley E. Barbour of Brockton, Paul F. Mann of New York, Thomas Hooker, Jr. of New Haven, Joseph Fairbanks of St. Johnsbury, Vt., and Dudley P. Lewis of Springfield. Messages had been received from about 150 other members of the class, and there were representatives present from several other classes. There were also present 10 students of the local high school who are expecting to enter Yale this Fall. After the banquet the entire party adjourned to Hampden Park, where they viewed Buffalo Bill's Wild West show.

FILE-NO. 305927

305927

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

REC. JUL 31 1911

May 13, 1911.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Here is some correspondence about the nickel. It brings up the general subject of the designs of coins. This will be an interesting matter to discuss with you at your convenience. Please consult with Mr. Andrew first. He has given a good deal of thought to the matter and is greatly interested in it.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin MacKey

Hon. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint.

Enclosures.

305927

REC: JUL 31 1911

29 WABASH AVENUE

May 4, 1911.

~~Dear Father:~~

A little matter that seems to have been overlooked by all of you is the opportunity to beautify the design of the nickel or five cent piece during your administration, and it seems to me it would be a permanent souvenir of the most attractive sort. As perhaps you are aware, it is the only coin the design of which you can change during your administration, as I believe there is a law to the effect that the designs must not be changed oftener than every twenty years. I should think also it might be the coin of which the greatest numbers are in circulation.

The attached letter from Mr. Andrew explains the matter further and shows his interest in it, and I feel quite sure that the present director of the Mint would also be interested if he were stirred up about it. He is himself the possessor of a very rare and beautiful Greek coin.

Affectionately yours,



ASSISTANT SECRETARY

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Washington,

305927
REC. JUL 8 1911

A/T.

May 2, 1911.

My dear Eames:

You are quite right - the nickel is the only coin which can be changed during this administration except by vote of Congress. The present nickel was designed in 1893 and therefore has been subject to change since 1908. The present designs for our silver coins were adopted in 1892, the gold coins in 1907 and 1908, and the bronze coins in 1909. When I was in the Mint I was much interested in the plan of arranging for competition among medalists for an ideal set of coins and had it in mind that if anything satisfactory resulted from it we could appeal to Congress to have them adopted, and I succeeded in getting Mr. Archer Huntington of the American Numismatic Society interested in the plan, but since I left the Mint the matter has been dropped and so far as I know nothing has been done about it. I am glad you have recalled the matter of the nickel to my attention and I will take it up again with the Director of the Mint.

Sincerely yours,

Eames MacVeagh, Esq.,
29 Wabash Avenue,
Chicago, Ill.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

FILE NO. 308449

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

December 6th, 1911.

Hon. John H. Landis,

Superintendent.

Sir:-

Mr. Rigg of the Royal Mint, London sent a communication to this office asking for information on this subject namely, the alloy of nickel coins, and states that he is preparing a statement of the nickel coinages of the World and that he wishes to classify them under the two heads, pure nickel and nickel-bronze.

He states that he can get much of the desired information from the currency laws dealing with the question, but as some of the reports are silent on the subject he has addressed letters to the following Mints, Paris, Berlin, Belgium, Copenhagen, Vienna, Japan, and Buenos Ayres, no doubt Mr. Rigg would gladly state the result of his inquiry.

I enclose a statement furnished Mr. Rigg at his request made up from the coins in our cabinet and those coins that were made at this Mint, those marked with an asterisk we gave the composition the others we could not. The coins marked are seventy-five copper and twenty-five nickel.

The only coins of Europe that I can give the composition are those of Belgium and Switzerland. At the time I visited those countries Belgium was using the same alloy as our own

NO. OF INCLOSURES.

RECEIVED
DEC 11 1911
U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINTS AND COINAGE

J.E.L. #2.

seventy-five copper and twenty-five nickel, these coins had
a round hole in the center. Switzerland was making a five and
ten centimes coin the same as ours, 75 and 25 and a 20 centimes
piece pure nickel. You will see by the enclosed list that my
statement that many countries are using nickel alloy or as
Mr. Riggs calls it nickel-bronze is correct. I regret that I am
not able to furnish the proportion of the composition used by
the various countries contained in the enclosed list.

Respectfully,

B/b.

Charles E. Rafter

ENGRAVER.

PURE NICKEL.

SWITZERLAND	20 centimes	1885
FRANCE	25 "	1906
ITALY	25 centesimi	1902
ITALY	20 "	1908
GERMANY	25 Pfennig	1909
MEXICO	5 centavos	1905

NICKEL - BRONZE.

GERMANY	5 Pfennig	1903
GERMANY	10 "	1903
SERBIA	5 and 10 Hapa	1904
ROMANIA	5 and 10 Bani	1905
DOMINICA	2½ and 5 centavos	1877
CHILI	5 and 10 centavos	1871
BRAZIL	100 - 200 Reis	1889
* PANAMA	Medio and 2½ Medio	1907
COLUMBIA	2½ and 5 centavos	1886
NICARAGUA	5 centavos	1898
SALVADORE	1 and 5 centavos	1889
* COSTA RICA	5 and 10 " Issued by C. R. Railway.	
JAPAN	5 Sen	
JAMAICA	Half penny, penny & farthing	1903
INDIA	1 anna	1908
* PHILIPPINE	5 centavos	1910
* UNITED STATES	5 cents	1910
BELGIUM	5 and 10 centimes	1904

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

February 29, 1912.

Bureau of the mint.
REC. LVII 111 1912

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 24th instant, in reference to House Bill 14042, which provides for a coin of the value of three-cents, to be made of 95% aluminum and 5% ~~copper~~ and to weigh 24 grains, I beg to inform you that in accordance with your request I have conferred with the operative officers on the matter and there seems to be very little I can learn of such a coin. 24 grains of the alloy mentioned would make a coin of the size of the present five-cent nickel piece. By increasing the thickness the coin could be made smaller in diameter or vice versa. In 1896 experiments were made in this mint with pure aluminum and alloys containing 97 and 98% aluminum. All of these were found to be too soft and clogged the dies. It is not thought that the further addition of 2% of copper will very much change the qualities of the alloy. About 1860 the French Government struck a number of aluminum coins containing 4% of copper. This coinage was not continued.

(2)

~~After diligent search and inquiry I can find~~
nothing relative to the condemnation of aluminum
coins from a medical standpoint.

The market quotations for aluminum are .1825¢
per pound in ton lots.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis
Superintendent.

308449

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

March 13, 1912.

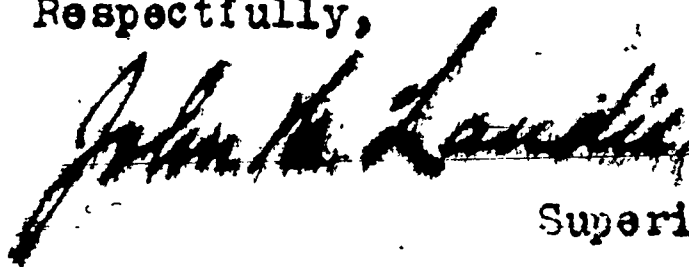
Bureau of the mi.
REC. MAR. 14 1912

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 7th instant,
in further reference to the proposed new 3¢ piece,
I beg to say that owing to our very limited experi-
ments with aluminum, I have nothing further to add
to my letter of February 29th. I do not, however,
consider aluminum a suitable metal for coins and I
would recommend that the new coin be composed of 75
per cent copper and 25% nickel.

Respectfully,



Superintendent.

308449

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

March 28, 1912.

Bureau of the mint,
REC. MAR 29 1912

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 27th instant, asking that we try the aluminum-nickel composition under a die, I beg to say that as all experimental dies and hubs have been destroyed we have nothing on hand from which we could strike these experimental pieces. If it is your desire that we shall make an experimental coinage die for this work I would respectfully request the necessary authority, and also, in conformity with Article 15, Section 11, that you state the number of pieces you desire us to strike and such instructions as you may see fit to give us with reference to design and size.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis

Superintendent.

308449

file

**THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.**

March 29, 1912.

Bureau of the mint.
REC. MAR 30 1912

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In accordance with the request contained in
your letter of the 26th instant I beg to enclose here-
with specimens of blanks of different diameters and
thicknesses conforming to the conditions of Congress-
man Dulckley's Bill.

Respectfully,

John H. Lindley
Superintendent.

(Encs.)

308449

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

April 4, 1912.

Bureau of the mint
REC. APR 5 1912

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In accordance with your request when at the mint on the first instant I beg to forward herewith samples of 3-cent blanks made from our standard nickel alloy.

The plain blanks are of the diameter selected by you, .793". Some of the plain blanks have been milled and others reeded. I send blanks with two sizes of hole; the smaller, $3/16$ ", is the one selected by you, but the larger, $7/32$ ", is one we think would work more satisfactorily as the weak part of the punch will be the portion that cuts out the center hole and the greater the diameter here, the less risk of breakage.

Respectfully,

John N. Landis.

Superintendent.

(Encs.)

308449

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

April 12, 1912.

Bureau of the mint.
REC. APR 13 1912

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

As requested in your letter of the 10th instant
I enclose herewith samples of perforated blanks with
diameters of .870 and .750 of an inch, composed of standard
nickel alloy.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis

Superintendent.

308449

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

April 13, 1912.

Bureau of the mint.
REC. APR 15 1912

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt by express today of a package containing a Gray slot machine of the type used by the Bell Telephone Company, as mentioned in your letter of the 12th instant. I communicated by telephone with the Keystone Telephone Company in this city and they informed me that they used the Gray slot machine and also one known as the Baird machine, a sample of which they sent to the mint.

The Bell Telephone Company, in this city, stated that the principal machine used by them is the Gray machine, but they also had in use two other types, specimens of which they sent to the mint for trial.

I also telephoned the Horn and Hardardt Baking Company, proprietors of the Automat lunch houses in this city.

We find that the diameter of the coin seems to be the only essential part in the working of these machines, although some of the companies claim that the thickness also plays some part in the working. Our experiments, however, seem to negative this. After a trial^{of} blanks of a large variety of diameters between the one cent and the quarter dollar in the different types

of Bell and Keystone telephones, we find that the only pieces which do not conflict with existing coins and which will not work in these machines are the following:

First, the piece .875" in diameter, weight 50.35 grains, which is nearly as large as the quarter dollar. This piece is too large for the five cent slot and passes through the twenty-five cent slot without ringing the bell.

Second, the piece .870" in diameter and $1/32$ larger than the nickel five cent piece. This is too large to enter the five cent slot.

Third, the piece .750" in diameter, the same size as the one cent bronze piece. This piece falls through the five cent slot and does not ring the bell.

The last two mentioned pieces weigh 60 grains each and specimens were forwarded to you yesterday by registered mail. Samples of the first mentioned piece were sent you some time ago.

We find that the piece a trifle smaller than the five cent nickel piece will ring the bell.

Of these three pieces mentioned above, not one will work the machine. The two larger are too large to enter the nickel slot and too small to ring the quarter dollar slot. The small size is too small to ring the five cent slot.

The conclusion we have arrived at is that the coin must be of the one cent size, or too large or too thick to enter the five cent slot.

Respectfully,

Albert A. Thomas

Acting Superintendent.

308449

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

April 20, 1912.

Dear Mr. Roberts:-

Replying to your inquiry by telephone today
I enclose Philippine Half-cent and samples of
nickel pieces same size. The dimensions etc. you
will find marked on enclosed envelope. Will
ascertain Monday if this piece will ring the One
Cent slot machines. Places are closed this after-
noon.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Clark", written over a horizontal line.

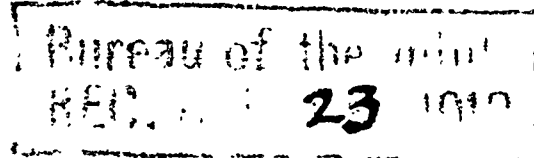
Enclosure.

308449

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,

COINER'S OFFICE,

April 22, 1912.



Hon. Geo. E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Your letter of the 20th instant referring to Mr. Riggs letter in which he says he sent a number of blanks and finished coins of different shapes, was received. Replying to the same I would say that I sent you these coins and blanks with Mr. Riggs letter. I however retained one piece of each, and enclose you a coin and blank of the square and round cornered shapes as requested. In addition to the above I am sending you a few blanks .700 diameter, size of Philippine half cent. The alloy is 75% copper and 25% nickel, and the weight is 42.50. These pieces can be either scalloped, or made square and round cornered. Can also be made a little thinner and of course will weigh less. I think a scalloped piece about this size would make a very pretty coin. The square piece with round corners would be easy to work.

As soon as the manufacturer sends in the one cent slot machine I will give you the result. In case the enclosed size rings the one cent slot machine I have made two pieces slightly smaller, one .600 and the other .650.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert Clark".

308449

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

April 23, 1912

Received of the
Director of the Mint

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I beg to inform you that I have forwarded today
by U. S. Express the Bell Telephone slot machine, sent
to this office for experiment on the 3-cent coin.

Respectfully,

Albert A. Dennis

Acting Superintendent.

B/L #15370 enc.

308449

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,

COINER'S OFFICE,

April 23, 1912.

File
Hon. Geo. E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I enclose you a few blanks that we tried in the one cent slot machine, none of which will work the machine. The piece in envelope marked No. 1, is too thick and the piece in No. 2, (Mexican cent) is too large in diameter to enter the slot. The other pieces in envelopes 3 and 4 will enter but will not operate the machine. The piece in No. 3 envelope is the same size as the Philippine half-cent .700, and the piece in No. 4 envelope is slightly smaller being .650 in diameter. Either would be a nice size for a coin. I also enclose you a few square pieces with round corners. They will not ring the one cent slot machine.

Very truly yours,

Robert Clark

308449

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

April 23, 1912.

RECEIVED OF THE
REC. DIV. 2 1912

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 20th instant I beg to inform you that we have no uncurrent- one-cent bronze pieces on hand and therefore cannot forward any of these coins in bad condition.

Mr. Barber informs me that he can give you no information in reference to the action of foreign countries in changing from bronze to nickel alloy.

Respectfully,

Albert A. Jones

Acting Superintendent.

308449

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

April 26, 1912.

File

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Since preparing the .650 and .700 diameter blanks, mentioned in my letter of this morning, neither of which will operate the one and ten cent slot machines, we find the Bill provides for a piece to weigh 30 grains and have prepared the enclosed blanks— one .625 in diameter, weighing 33 grains and .600 diameter, weighing 30 grains as provided for in the Bill. These pieces will enter the slot machines but will not operate them. We find a piece above .625 to the size of a dime will operate a dime slot machine.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis

Superintendent.

(Encs.)

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

April 26, 1912.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In accordance with your suggestion in letter of the 24th instant I am enclosing herewith additional experimental blanks— five samples of the small piece, .650 in diameter, weight 53 grains and five samples the size of the Philippine half-cent, .700 in diameter, weight 60 grains, standard nickel alloy. Neither of these blanks will operate the one or ten cent slot machines, both being too thick to enter. The square piece with round corners, sent you a few days ago, if made this thickness, will not operate the one or ten cent slot machines. This same size and thickness, scalloped, will not operate the one or ten cent slot machines.

In reference to your inquiry of April 23d, as to whether the proposed 3-cent piece would have to go through the punching machine an extra time in order to make the hole in the center, I beg to say the whole thing is done with one stroke when the piece is cut out.

As stated in my letter of April 23d we have no one-cent pieces returned for redemption on hand. They have all been melted.

Respectfully,



Superintendent.

308449

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

April 30, 1912.

Coinage Read May 1

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

As requested in your letter of the 27th instant I have forwarded by registered mail today three varieties of blanks (milled), one .625 diameter, .048 thick, weight 33 grains, another, same diameter, .053 thick, weight 37 grains, and still another sample of the same diameter, .055 thick, weight 38 grains. We think the most suitable piece would be the .625 diameter, weight 33 grains. This could be reduced to 30 grains and would still be thick enough to protect the dies in operation. By making the legal weight of the half-cent 30 grains, the one-cent 48 grains (the present weight) and the proposed three-cent piece 60 grains, the weight of a dollar in half-cent and one-cent pieces, and of three dollars in three-cent pieces would be easy of calculation, coming out even and doing away with fractions, which is very desirable.

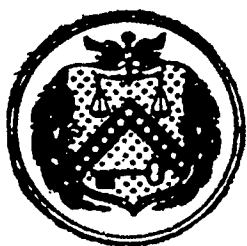
We know of no provision in the law which regulates the diameters of any of our coins, the weight and fineness only being fixed by the statutes. Mr. Barber and Mr. Eckfeldt concur in this opinion, a letter from the former being enclosed.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis

Superintendent.

(Enc.)



OFFICE OF ENGRAVER

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

April 30, 1912.

Received of the
Mint
1012

Hon. John H. Landis,
Superintendent.

Sir:-

I know of no case where the diameter is mentioned in the act authorizing the coinage of a new coin, weight and fineness is only stated, the diameter being a detail for the engraver, with the approval of the Director to settle. The Director may remember this to have been the case when the weight and fineness of the Philippine coins was changed. The only reference to diameters of coins is in the act of Sept 26, 1890, Sec 3510 and that applies only after the diameter has been once determined.

As we are invited to express ourselves regarding our feeling towards the various irregular shapes suggested for the new coin, I venture to say that I do not approve of any of them, to my mind there is only one shape for a coin, that is round, anything else appears to me degrading as it is following the coinage of semi civilized people, with one exception namely, Belgium, while on the other hand I have before me the report of the British Mint wherein is displayed several coins with holes in the centre, one from East Africa and another from West Africa and another from Uganda, another example in the same direction is the scalloped coin made for the Coolies of India and a square piece with the corners cut off for the natives of Ceylon.

I fail to find any advantage in departing from the established form adopted by all highly cultured nations, it would be no aid to our people, as from infancy they have learned the coins of their country and to the stranger it would be no help as he would have to find the denomination upon the coin, as a hole or irregular form is no indication of the value. The question then is who would it serve, the blind or nearly so, and this does not appear to me to be sufficient reason for the innovation.

I have examined the planchet prepared by the Coiner for the half cent coin, diameter .625 and about 33 grains in weight and .048 thickness. I think the weight might be reduced to 30 grains and would still be thick enough to coin without difficulty and would yet be in good proportion.

Respectfully,

B/b.

Charles F. Fisher

ENGRAVER.

308449
Phila May 7/12
1721 Vine St

And 5-9-12

Dear Sir

Your letter came to me
this morning, and I am
pleased to send you
herewith the two coins
mentioned.

If they are returned to
me they will have to be
sent this week as I sail
for my native country
(Holland) next Tuesday
morning, but if you

wish you may keep them
as they are no use to
me here and while
in Holland I can get
other ones.

Hoping that they may
be of some use to you
I am

Yours truly
Mrs J. L. Kennedy

308449

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

May 9, 1912.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

As requested in your letter of the 7th instant I beg to enclose herewith ten perforated experimental blanks diameter .870, thickness .048, weight 60 grains, $1/32$ larger than the 5-cent piece, also ten blanks diameter .600, thickness .045, weight 30 grains. In addition to the two sizes above requested by you, I also enclose ten blanks diameter .625, thickness .043, weight 30 grains. All these blanks are of standard nickel alloy.

In reading over in the Congressional Record, the bill as passed by the House, I find that no provision is made for using the old bronze alloy (95% copper and 5% tin and zinc) in the one and two cent pieces now in circulation when they are returned as uncurrent. As you will remember, we made a lot of experimental blanks, samples of which were forwarded to the Bureau August 22, 1911, using the standard bronze alloy in place of copper in making standard nickel alloy. This alloy was found to work satisfactorily up to the point of coining, but we were never authorized to strike any coins in this metal.

Section 3 of the Act reads "That from and after the passage of this Act all 1-cent pieces coined at the mints of the United States shall * * * * * be composed of 75 per cent copper and

308449

(2)

25 per cent nickel." If this should pass the present Congress what are we to do with over 4,000,000 ounces of bronze ingots which we have piled up for this year's coinage of one cent pieces? It will be impossible for us to make sufficient nickel ingots to coin the number of one cent pieces required to supply the usual demand and the change in this coin will probably increase this demand. Would it not be better if the change of the alloy of the one cent piece should not go into effect until January 1913.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis

Superintendent.

308449

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

May 21, 1912.

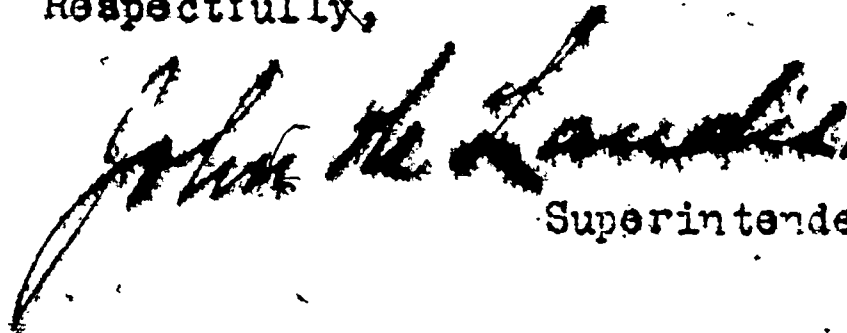
The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

As requested in your letter of the 18th instant
I beg to enclose twelve milled blanks .875 in diameter,
.047 thickness, weighing 60 grains, also twelve milled
blanks, diameter .635, thickness .043, weight 30 grains.

These blanks are composed of an alloy of 75% copper and
25% nickel.

Respectfully,



Superintendent.

(Encs.)

308449

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

May 27, 1912.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

As requested in your letter of the 24th instant I beg to enclose herewith twelve perforated nickel blanks, diameter .879, thickness .045, weight 60 grains. Also twelve perforated blanks diameter .885, thickness .046, weight 60 grains. The first is .044 larger than the 5-cent piece, and the second .050 larger than the 5-cent piece.

Respectfully,

Robert A. Adams

Acting Superintendent.

(Encs.)

(COPY)



OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

May 28, 1912.

Mr. Frank B. Kennedy, Secretary,
Recording Register and Fare-Box Co.,
New Haven, Conn.

Sir:

Your letter addressed to the Acting Secretary of the Treasury has been referred to this Bureau. Permit me to enquire whether your machines will handle the enclosed sample piece, the diameter of which is nearly midway between the five-cent piece and the quarter.

Replying to your request for information on the subject, I would say that the House Bill providing for the new coins is now in the Senate Committee on Finance. No action by the Committee has yet been taken.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Geo. E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint.

8.

Enclosure.

308449



ROYAL MINT,
LONDON, E.

29th. May, 1912.

Bureau of the mint.
REC. JUN 6 1912

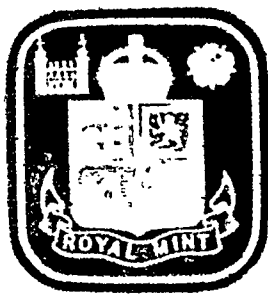
Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 16th. March and enclosure, I have only just been able to get the copy of the "Économiste Européen" of the 10th March 1911. From this it appears that the coinage system set out in the enclosure is taken from a letter which appeared in the "Financial Times" of London. The writer had in view the eventual introduction of the decimal system into the coinage of the United Kingdom, and attempted to show that the amalgamation of the decimal with our existing system could be effected without difficulty.

I need hardly say that the writer appears to be unconscious of the practical difficulties which lie in the way of his proposal.

There is of course no idea of altering our present system, and had the prefatory part of the
extract.

Geo. E. Roberts, Esq.



extract been given in the translation which you enclosed. I need not have delayed in replying, as I would have seen that it was merely one of the numerous suggestions which spring from the brains of those who are not conversant with the practical side of currency.

The aluminium which we used for the African Subsidiary coins was of 98% aluminium and 2% copper, and produced an excellent hard metal, which coined with great ease and without any of the difficulty you mention. It was, however, unsuitable for use in Africa owing to other causes, and nickel-bronze was substituted for the coins in question. In any event aluminium would, in my judgment be unsuitable, owing to its extreme lightness, for use in this country.

I am, Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

William Allen McCarty

Ans'd 7-11

Bureau of the mint
REC, JUL 10 1912

308447

Secretary Mc Veigh, U. S. Treasury Dept.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: As you evidently intend changing coin designs, permit what appears to me a rational method: Arrange sizes of coins from dime size to dollar size at present in silver to alloys of gold, silver, nickel and copper, the penny the smallest size and twenty dollar gold piece the largest, the others to range in size between them and their composition according to value by the gold standard. A penny the smallest, next size larger a five cent piece, next larger size a ten cent piece, next larger size a twenty five cent piece, next larger size a fifty cent piece, next larger size a dollar piece, next larger size a five dollar piece, next larger size a ten dollar piece, and largest size a twenty dollar piece, the smallest coin containing cheapest metal and largest piece containing costliest metal of the group, gold silver, nickel & copper in largest amount. Hoping the idea may be of some good, I remain, yours respectfully

Oscar Trough, machinist & draftsman
care of C. P. Kuchler 1379 E 9 St. Cleveland, Ohio.

J. M. HOLMES.
ALBERT BLAIR,
KENT KOERNER.

Aug 7-11-12
LAW OFFICES
OF
HOLMES, BLAIR AND KOERNER,
PIERCE BUILDING,
ST. LOUIS.

St. Louis, July 8, 1912.

Bureau of the Dept
REC. JUL 10 '12

The Honorable Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. Co

Sir:-

From the enclosed copy of letter you will see that I am engaged in the perfecting of a device that will prevent the use of slugs of all description to purchase a connection with the Bell Telephone Company. I have a method by which I can exclude smooth nickels and only permit nickels to go into the box that have the embossing of a genuine nickel. The objection to the test of the embossing on a nickel is that the user of a smooth nickel is entitled to communication as well as the person with a nickel that is embossed. In all the tons of slugs the Bell Telephone Company find in their Toll Boxes, I have not been able to find a blank nickel, like blank brass, etc., and I have come to the conclusion that the probability is that the material of which nickels are made is too expensive and too hard to get.

I desire this information from you, if you please:
What does it cost the Government to stamp out the blanks for five cent nickels? Is there any prohibition under the law for any one to stamp out blanks of the same thickness of pure nickel? Is there any prohibition under the law for manufacturers of rolled nickel to supply any one else but your Treasury Department?

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Leo Ehrlich,
Care Hotel Beers,
Grand Ave. & Olive Street,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Enclosure.

308449.

(C O P Y)

New York, June 20, 1912,

June 5 --47868

Mr. Leo Ehrlich,

c/o Hotel Beers,

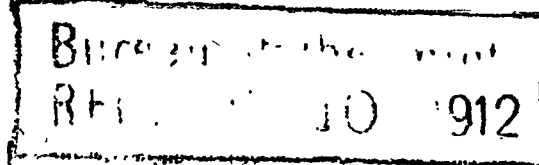
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Sir:-

I have your letter of June 5th with reference to your cash register and slug detector inventions for coin boxes. In reply I would say that this company is always glad to investigate any devices which may improve the telephone service and if you will send me a complete description of your inventions and any patent specifications or models you may have we will be glad to examine them and advise you later as to our conclusions in the matter.

Yours truly,

(Signed) J. J. Carty,
Chief Engineer,
American Telephone and
Telegraph Company.



308449

THE RECORDING REGISTER AND FARE BOX COMPANY

(INCORPORATED)

FARE REGISTERS, FARE BOXES AND RAILWAY SUPPLIES

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

P. O. Box 1228

128 WINCHESTER AVENUE

File

Bureau of the mint.
REC. JUL 11 1912

Hon. Secretary of the Treasury,

July 10, 1912.

Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

We understand from the Washington newspapers and other sources that you are considering changing the five cent coin and we earnestly protest against this continued agitation regarding United States coins. The ^{Conrage} senseless bill recently passed by the House and now before the Senate has nearly ruined our business and this continued agitation will finally drive us and many others into bankruptcy unless the same is discontinued immediately.

We therefore respectfully and earnestly protest.

Sincerely yours,

THE RECORDING REGISTER & FARE BOX COMPANY.

FBK/ACN

BY.....

.....
SECRETARY.

308449

Johnson Coin Counting Machine Company

239 Fourth Avenue,

C. H. BIRDSALL, President.
W. P. BUTLER, V. President.
W. D. C. STREET, Secretary.
J. W. FRANK, Treasurer.

New York, July 10th, 1912

and 7-11-12

316

Bureau of the mint
REC. JUL 11 1912

Director of the Mint

U. S. Treasury Department

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

We have noticed a newspaper report that a change in design of the present five-cent piece is to be made by the Treasury Department. Will you kindly advise us whether this provides for any change in the diameter, thickness or form of the present five-cent coin and greatly oblige.

Respectfully yours

Johnson Coin Counting Machine Co.

per

President

CHB/MD

Recd 7-12-12 File

1 July 1912

Hon. Franklin Macbragh
Secretary of the Treasury

My dear Sir:- I notice
in today's papers the
anticipated change in
the five cent piece and
forthwith send my em-
phatic protest. It is
quite enough to have
the sudden on the one
cent piece. As for the
five dollar gold piece

travellers doing the ~~that~~ is too, too bad! -
United States and upon The Indian will never
seeing the five cent piece be forgotten. All children
with the Indian - solid of every class sometimes
saying "so his was ze or other wear an Indian
great" Franklin Mac beach, but, mimic was
but, why did he wear a dancer and poor now.
many plumes in his If it is necessary to
chapeau; and, upon make a change could
looking on the reverse it not be as artistic
side - I wonder if see as we have now!
people of that time rode I can fancy in A.D.
that ferocious looking 2012, a continental
animal. - Please Mr. Sec.

retary use for in
fluence to have the
Indians and the Buffalo
placed somewhere else,
than upon our nice
little five cent piece
Only yours
Elizabeth Willard Lake

Mrs Crilly B Lake
The Kennel
South of Pine St
Philadelphia

308449

July 12, 1912.

Mrs. Orville B. Lake,
The Kenner, 10th & Pine Sts.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Madam:

Your earnest appeal in behalf of the present 5¢ piece has been received. I quite agree with you that if we are to make a change the new piece should be at least as artistic as the old one but is this so very difficult? A coin to be artistic should be suggestive and in some sense characteristic of the country to which it belongs. That cannot be said of the present 5¢ piece. The Buffalo and the Indian are both peculiar to the United States, identified together with its past and worthy of such a memorial as an artistic coin would be. The merit of the idea would seem to depend upon the ability of the artist to give us something distinctive, pleasing and of really national significance. Nothing has been determined upon but if such a result should be achieved we should count confidently upon your approval.

Respectfully,

Secretary.

W.C. R.B.

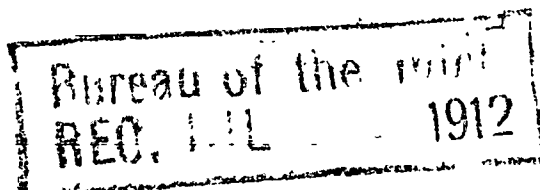
File

North American Selling Company, (Inc.)

120 Liberty St.

New York, July 12th, 1912.

Ores, Metals, Alloys,
Acids, Clays, Gums, Rubber,
Pulp Wood, Timber, Oil & Mineral Lands
Briquetting Processes & Machinery



Mr. George E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 11th instant, would say that SILVER makes ALUMINUM hard and brittle.

What has been done is to remove this brittleness, - as this is a subject of a Patent now under way in the Patent Office (five claims out of six allowed) we cannot disclose how it is done and can only say it is mainly one hundred parts ALUMINUM and fifteen SILVER - the rest is so extremely small as not to count in a practical sense - It is a case of know how.

Answer to your question, why is it better than NICKEL and ALUMINUM?, 50 ALUMINUM and 50 NICKEL will turn into oxides in 60 days about. With so small a portion as 3% NICKEL it will turn black in two years, even if packed away in cotton. ARGENTAL used under the hard conditions of coins will remain bright forever. TRY NITRIC ACID ON IT.

75% COPPER, 25% NICKEL, 5 cent pieces are too heavy.

ARGENTAL can be made much harder than samples sent, which however will outwear any coin in use.

As to expense, it costs \$1.74 per lb. avoirdupois for

North American Selling Company, (Inc.)

Ores, Metals, Alloys,
Acids, Clays, Gums, Rubber,
Pulp Wood, Timber, Oil & Mineral Lands
Briquetting Processes & Machinery

120 Liberty St.

New York,

Mr. George E. Roberts, p. 2, July 12, 1912.

material before making, which is so much the better, for the coins have a more real value.

A NEW COIN, as we see it, should be distinct from those in use, and should have, 1st, LIGHTNESS, 2d, WEAR, 3d, WHITENESS, 4th, to REMAIN BRIGHT under all conditions, such as sea water, sulphur from gas, human hands, acids from fruits, and many other things, 5th, SOME INTRINSIC VALUE, 6th, for many years CANNOT BE COUNTERFEITED, as the secret how it is made is beyond analysis, 7th, it is ABSOLUTELY NON-POISONOUS, contains no copper, 8th, because it STANDS EXCESSIVE WEAR, 9th, IT IS BETTER IN MANY WAYS THAN PURE SILVER - or silver and copper -, 10th, because PRICE and VOLUME ARE AS FOUR TO ONE, that is say a lb. of ARGENTAL will make four times as many coins, or other articles, as silver, copper, nickel, etc.

Kindly advise us as to your future requirements and oblige.

Yours very truly,

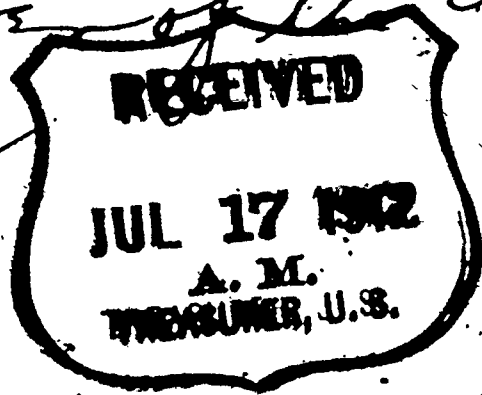
North American Selling Co.,

F. M. Machette Prest.

308449
National Storage & Warehouse Co.
July 15th/12

To the Secretary
or Treasurer of the U. S.
Washington

DIRECTOR OF MINT



Dear Sirs

Please advise me just when
the New Nickels of 1912 will be
ready for circulation & also
if I could get \$100.00 worth
direct from your City or
at Home

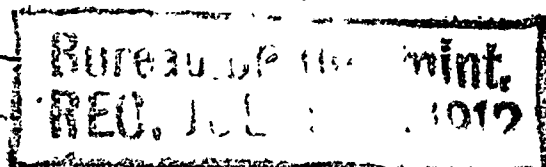
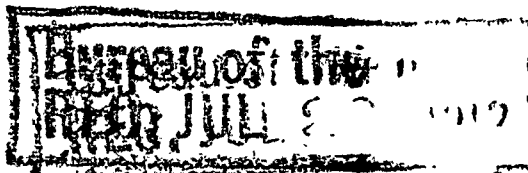
I am cashier of the largest
& most up to date Packing House
in the world - Banard House
of which is located at this point
& would like to be first in
distributing the New Buffalo
in this vicinity

Yours very truly

N. A. Huxford

308449
~~308449~~

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY



July 18, 1912.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I have read your letter of July 15th with much interest, and will send it to Hon. George E. Roberts, Director of the Mint, who, with me, is especially interested in the new five-cent coin.

I am glad that you, who ^{are} is an authority, approve of the general features of the design of the proposed new five-cent piece. The design, at present favored, has both the Buffalo and the Indian. The design is in the hands of Mr. J. W. Fraser, whom many think -- since Saint Gaudens died -- is the greatest medalist, and certainly one of the leading ^{American} medalists of our time. He is profoundly interested in the question; and there will be no doubt as to the

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

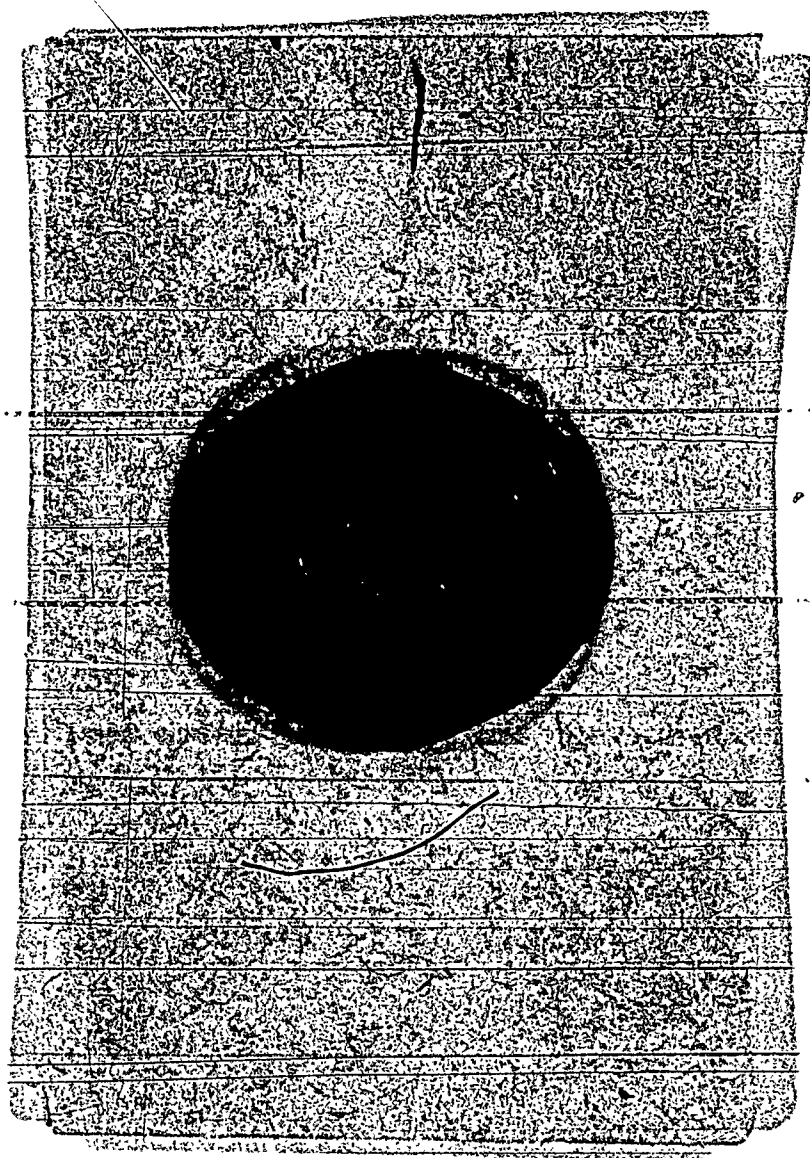
artistic quality of the work.

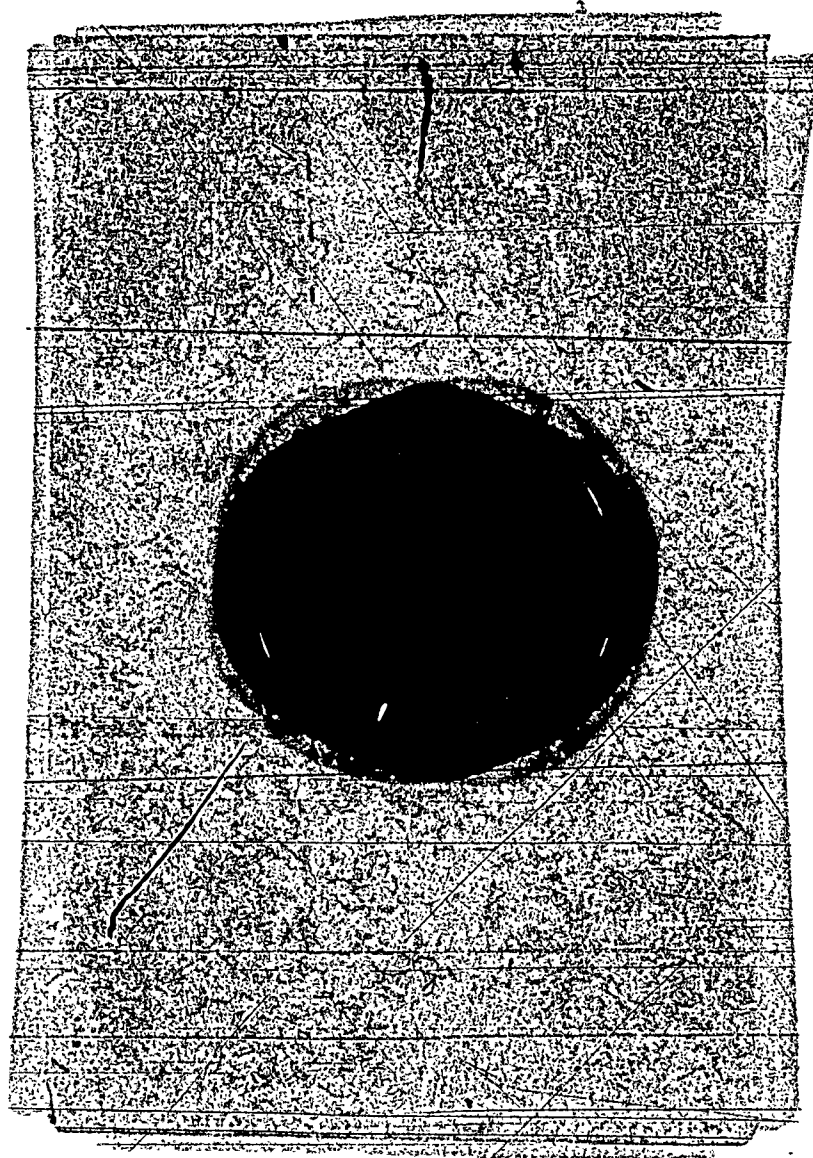
Very sincerely yours,

Mr. T. B. Neagh

Waldo C. Moore, Esq.,
Lewisburg,
Ohio.

P. S. I thank you for the medal which you sent me. I think the buffalo is very good; but I am sure you will have nothing but praise for Frazer's buffalo.





PRESIDENT
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

VICE PRESIDENTS
HENRY A. SMITH
R. G. HUTCHINS, JR.

CASHIER
NEILSON OLCOTT

ASSISTANT CASHIERS
OLIVER I. PILAT
FARIS R. RUSSELL
A. J. OXENHAM
SAMUEL WILCOX

MANAGER FOREIGN DEPARTMENT
G. S. MASON

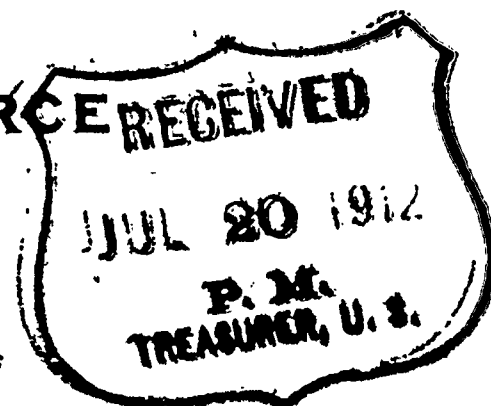
Amul 7-25-12

NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE IN NEW YORK

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits Forty Million Dollars

July 19th, 1912.

Bureau of the mint,
REC. JUL 23 1912



Sir:-

We are informed that the United States Government has minted a new five cent piece with a design which includes a buffalo and figure of liberty. If this be true will you please advise us where they may be obtained.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy, we beg to remain

Yours very truly,

Assistant Cashier.

Hon. Treasurer of the United States,

Washington, D. C.

12

308449

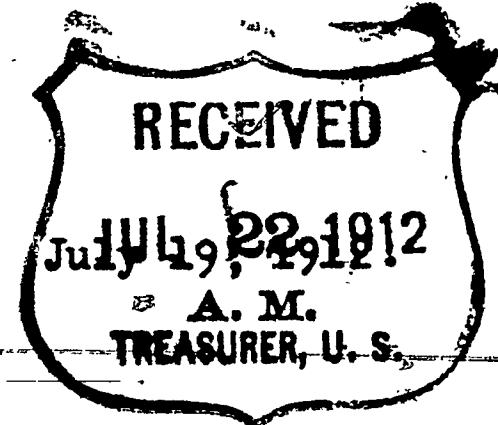
DESIGNATED DEPOSITARY OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC

Capital \$2,000,000
Surplus \$1,000,000

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W. T. FENTON, VICE-PRESIDENT
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JAMES M. HURST, ASSISTANT CASHIER
WM. B. LAVINIA, ASSISTANT CASHIER
W. H. HURLEY, ASSISTANT CASHIER
W. S. BISHOP, ASSISTANT CASHIER

Aug 7-25-12
DIRECTOR OF MINT
CHICAGO,



Honorable The Treasurer of the United States,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We understand that the Government is about to issue a new design nickel, and we would thank you to advise us when you will be ready to receive orders for this coin and what steps must be taken to procure a supply.

Awaiting the courtesy of a reply,

Yours very truly,

W. H. Hurley
Assistant Cashier.

308449

HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO.,

RAPER BOX MACHINERY,

26 SALISBURY ST., WORCESTER, MASS., U. S. A.

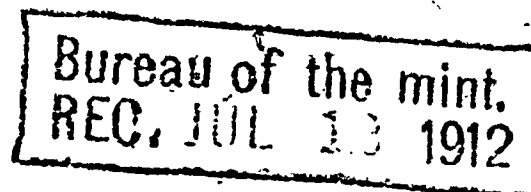
SALESROOMS { 162 WOOSTER ST., NEW YORK CITY.
59 HATTON GARDEN, LONDON, E. O.
40 SO. OLINTON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

And 7-12-12 file
WORCESTER, MASS.

July 11, 1912.

The Honorable Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington, D.C.



Dear Sir:-

We see by the public Press that your Department is considering the issue of a new nickle coin to replace the Goddess of Liberty piece now in use.

We wish to enter our protest in the change in this coin and for the following reasons:

There have been very large sums of money expended during the past few years in perfecting Coin Detecting Machines, same to be used in connection with machines for automatic sales of postage stamps, railroad tickets and other articles of like nature. These machines are now ready to go on the market and orders for them are already placed.

There has been a very great popular demand for a successful apparatus of this kind, particularly on the part of railroad companies who desire automatic sales machines for selling local tickets on surface lines, elevated roads, etc., and these machines all call for 5 cent detectors.

This development has been based upon the standard form of nickle, 5 ¢ token, and to change the design at this time will not only render valueless the expenditure that has already been made, largely by this company, but will also postpone to an indefinite

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From HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO., WORCESTER, MASS.,..... July 11, 1912.....

To The Honorable Secretary of the Treasury,

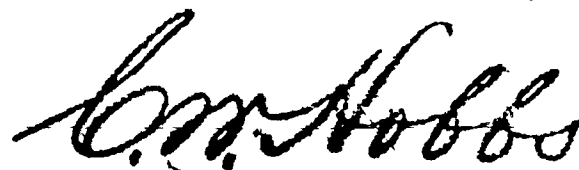
Continuation Sheet No. 2

date the time when the public transportation companies can avail themselves of a safe apparatus to use upon their platforms for selling their tickets.

We therefore beg your careful consideration of this highly important matter.

Mr. Ralph of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, is well informed upon the work that has been done, and we suggest that his opinion will be of value.

Yours truly,



C. W. H. / H.

308449

PRESIDENT
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CASHIER
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MANAGER FOREIGN DEPARTMENT
G.S. MASON

NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE IN NEW YORK

RECEIVED
JUL 26 1912

A. M.
TREASURER, U. S.

File
Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits Forty Million Dollars

July 25th, 1912.

Bureau of the Mint
REC. JUL 1912

Sir:-

~~We do not appear to have received your reply to~~
our letter of July 19th and believing that it may have mis-
carried, quote it below:-

"We are informed that the United States Govern-
ment has minted a new five cent piece with a design which
includes a buffalo and a figure of liberty. If this be
true, will you please advise us where they may be obtained.
Thanking you in advance for your courtesy, we beg
to remain".

-Yours very truly,

[Signature]
Assistant Cashier.

Hon. Treasurer of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

308449
HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO.,

PAPER BOX MACHINERY,

26 SALISBURY ST., WORCESTER, MASS., U. S. A.

SALESROOMS. { 152 WOOSTER ST., NEW YORK CITY.
59 HATTON GARDEN, LONDON, E. O.
40 SO. CLINTON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

WORCESTER, MASS. July 15, 1912.

Hon. Geo. E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint, Treasury Dept.,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of July 12th is received.

In order to successfully detect coins and separate same from counterfeit coins and from checks and slugs, and other articles of like nature which are used in automatic machines in place of genuine coins, it has been found necessary to take certain points upon the face of the coin as standard marks. This is arrived at after extremely careful investigation, and upon these standard points the Coin Detector is built up.

Machines as these have been greatly desired for very many years, as for instance, by the telephone companies. In Chicago it is stated that the telephone companies lose over \$1000.00 per week in slugs taken in at various telephone booths. The same thing has been true in New York City. The adoption of five cent ticket selling machines on railroad platforms has been abandoned because of the fact that there has been no efficient means of separating false coins and slugs from genuine coins.

The invention which has just been perfected and which is going into use very shortly on certain lines in New York is based upon the selection of certain proof points on the head of the five cent coin. It has been brought to such a state of perfection now that out of 1000 coins and about as many slugs every genuine coin was

From HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO., WORCESTER, MASS., July 15, 1912.

To Hon. Geo. E. Roberts

Continuation Sheet No. 2

accepted and every false coin and slug was rejected.

The machine has been brought to such a state of perfection that it will operate just so long as the figure of the heads is visible.

It may be possible that the new coin would offer similar points which could be used identically with the other coin, but that of course is not known as we have not had the opportunity of seeing the new design; but unless there was such an agreement of test points upon the two coins, you can readily see that the scheme of having a machine which will accurately separate genuine coins from false coins would have to be abandoned, because the public could not be expected to discriminate between the old and the new, but would use the one or the other as they happened to have them in hand.

With the two designs of one cent coins we have been able to make a Detector which would accept both, but that involved a very long study and was a very difficult proposition.

Our object in bringing up the matter of this five cent coin at this time, is that it would seem a very great misfortune if the public are to be deprived of this opportunity to use automatic sales machines, as is done in foreign countries. The conditions in this country are very different from those prevailing abroad on account of the large use of gambling machines in this country, which employ slugs and checks exactly the size of the five cent coin. These have gone into the possession of the people to a very great degree. There are also innumerable slugs and checks issued by restaurants and other places for coat checks, meal checks, beer checks, etc., all of which are based upon the size of the five cent coin.

From HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO., WORCESTER, MASS., July 15, 1912.

To Geo. E. Roberts

Continuation Sheet No. 3

There have been many attempts made to get a machine for selling a five cent cigar, also for selling newspapers, but these have all had to be abandoned because of the lack of an efficient coin detector.

Now after having just succeeded in perfecting such an instrument and after the expenditure of over \$50,000.00 in doing so, it comes as a great surprise to find that the pattern of the five cent coin is to be changed, and from the description that has been published that the Liberty head is to be replaced by the figure of a buffalo, it seemed to us that undoubtedly the coin would be so far changed that any Detector would be unable to accept both these coins and at the same time reject all others.

This testing is not made by the diameter or the thickness of the coin, or by the condition of the rim, as you suggest in your letter, but the detecting points are taken from the parts of the coin which are the least liable to wear and which are most substantial in every way.

It was not our object in writing to you to attempt to say that there should never be any improvement in coin, but the interests of the people are so closely connected with the coinage, and the economy which is to be effected by the use of automatic machines is so very great, that it would seem wise to have the matter fully considered before any radical change in the face of the coin which is most generally used of any, should be made.

This has been called by very many a five cent country, and it is probable that more transactions are made with the 5 cent coin than with all other coins put together, not excepting the one cent.

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From HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO., WORCESTER, MASS., July 15, 1912.

To Hon. Geo. B. Roberts

Continuation Sheet No. 4

It might be added that we are now designing for the use of the Post Office Department, in the postal savings work, a machine for selling the ten cent saving stamp which is based upon the standard ten cent coin, and although there are two figures on these coins, one on the old pattern and the other on the new, we have succeeded in making a Detector which will accept them both. The same might be true of the five cent coin taking the old and the proposed new ones, but the object in bringing this matter forward is that the matter might be considered before it is too late.

With much respect and thanking you for your response, and trusting that the matter will be looked into very carefully, we remain,

Sincerely yours,

Hobbs Manufacturing Co.
Wm. Hobbs
Pres.

P.S. If it would shed any light upon the subject and enable you to come to a more definite conclusion, a five cent coin detector might be sent to you for trial, and you would then readily see how important such a machine might become in the business of the country.

GENERAL SECRETARY
MALDORE MOORE
Lewisburg, Ohio

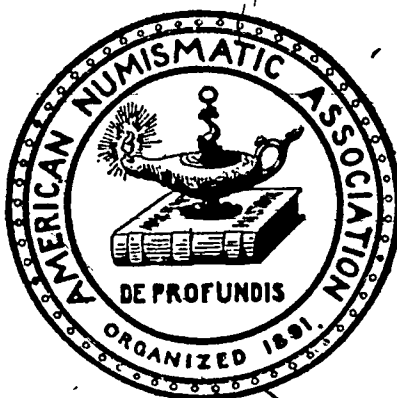
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308449
TREASURER
N. E. CONVERSE
Gas Works, Worcester, Mass.

The American Numismatic Association

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Official Publication "THE NUMISMATIST"
Worcester, Mass.

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G. L. TILDEN, Business Mgr., 377 Main St., Worcester, Mass.

Lewisburg, Ohio, July 15, 1912

Secretary of Treasurer McVeagh,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In re- the new five-cent piece, I am aware that there is some opposition to the change, but never-the-less I am inclined to believe that a new five-cent coin with the American Buffalo on the one side and the American Indian on the other would be just the proper thing. Both the Buffalo and the Indian designs should be something artistic, nothing that would cause one to be ashamed. Let us have a coin so designed in commemoration of the early Indian and Bison of North America.

Yours respectfully.

Maldore Moore

Member 1912 Annual Assay Commission.

308449

Edward F. Henson & Co.

LUMBER & MILLWORK

CABLE ADDRESS:-

"HENSON" PHILADELPHIA

Codes Used

AMERICAN LUMBERMAN TELECODE, WESTERN UNION

SOUTHARD'S A B C, 4TH & 5TH EDITIONS, A1 CODE ZEBRA

KEYSTONE & BELL
LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONESOffice { 921 North Delaware Ave.
Planing Mill { Beach, Poplar & Delaware Ave
and Wharves { Piers 37 & 38 North Wharvesans
Aug 6/12

Philadelphia August 3, 1912.

George E. Roberts, Esq.,
Director of Mint,
Washington, D. C.

5

Dear Sir:

Mr. Clarence W. Hobbs, of Worcester, informs me that he has written to you regarding the coin testing machines in the development of which we have both taken part, and particularly in regard to new designs for coins which will not interfere with a proper testing.

The Post Office Department is interested in the development of this Patent and we expect soon to submit to that Department postage stamp vending machines which will prove satisfactory. You will appreciate that if coins be so changed as to make it necessary for a buyer of postage stamps to go to one vending machine with one design of coin and to another with another design of coin, such an arrangement would not be satisfactory to the Post Office Department. I do not mean you to understand that the coin testers require no change in designs. We have built a coin tester which accepts both the old Indian head and the new Lincoln head in the one cent. We have built a nickel machine which accepts all good, un mutilated coins, even though much worn, but will refuse the Philippino nickel, which is of practically the same size. We cannot, however, build a one cent machine which will accept the Lincoln and the Indian head and the old white nickel cent without building it so that it will take slugs.

If you would like to see the device, the writer will endeavor at no distant date to submit same to you for your information. It is a very interesting little machine.

You wrote to Mr. Hobbs suggesting that he communicate with Mr. J. E. Frazier, the artist, in New York. Will you oblige me with his address?

Yours very truly,

EDWARD F. HENSON.

Dic. Henson-M

ans
Aug 8-23-12

*Edward F. Henson & Co.***LUMBER & MILLWORK**

CABLE ADDRESS:-

"HENSON" PHILADELPHIA

Codes Used

AMERICAN LUMBERMAN TELECODE, WESTERN UNION
SOUTHARD'S A.B.C. 4TH & 5TH EDITIONS, A.I. CODE ZEBRAKEYSTONE & BELL
LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONES

Office { 921 North Delaware Ave.
Planing Mill { Beach, Poplar & Delaware Ave.
and Wharves { Piers 37 & 38 North Wharves

Philadelphia August 26, 1912.

George E. Roberts, Esq.,
Director of Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of August 23rd. I have already seen the proposed design at Mr. Fraser's office, but I am obliged to bring the inventors to view the coin, as I do not feel competent to determine whether the present design can, without some changes, be adapted. The coin detector measures into the ten thousandths of an inch, and if the new coin possesses some dimensions in common with the old, it will be possible to adapt the detector to both and that without robbing the new coin of its artistic merit.

Yours very truly,

EDWARD F. HENSON.

Dic. Henson-M

308449

HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO.,
PAPER BOX MACHINERY,
26 SALISBURY ST., WORCESTER, MASS., U. S. A.

SALESROOMS { 162 WOOSTER ST., NEW YORK CITY.
59 HATTON GARDEN, LONDON, E. O.
40 SO. CLINTON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

Worcester, Mass. October 19, 1912.

Recd 11-12-12

Hon. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Referring once more to the matter of the change in design of the five-cent coin, which has been under correspondence between us heretofore.

We have had opportunity of examining this coin at the studio of the artist in New York, but the matter is not yet in shape where we can put it to a practical test, owing to the fact that the design is not yet beyond the experimental stage, and the parts shown us are only half coins. We are therefore unable at this stage to state whether or not this design can be worked along with the old coin in a modern coin detecting device.)

This letter is written with a view of conveying an item of information which is important, and of further representing the state of the case.

The first matter of importance is that the large companies like the Interborough Company of New York, the Hudson Tunnels, and the American Telephone Company, are becoming very deeply interested in the matter of automatic sales. Their business alone not counting in other sections of the country, would amount to a very large sum, and the economy from using a proper coin detecting device would be enormous for them, and measuring the rest of the

From HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO., WORCESTER, MASS., October 19, 1912.

To Hon. George E. Roberts.

Continuation Sheet No. 1.

country by them, it would be of magnitude.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that final action in this matter of change of coin will be deferred until the matter can be thoroughly understood both by yourself and the parties in interest.

The second matter is the fact that a large interest has now been formed to place the coin detecting devices referred to upon the market, and a change in the coin at this period would work a very heavy loss in case the new design is not conformable to the limitations of the Coin Detecting Device.

The writer, therefore, thinks it essential that the matter be gone into promptly, and this letter is written to inquire at what time he could meet you at your office in Washington, when he would bring down one of the devices in question and place it before you so that you might understand the nature of the case, perhaps more fully than you do now. Therefore if you will kindly indicate a date when it will be convenient for you to receive a call from me, I shall be glad to conform to it.

Yours sincerely,

HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO.

By W. A. Hobbs
President

CWH.S

308449

HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO.,

PAPER BOX MACHINERY,

26 SALISBURY ST., WORCESTER, MASS., U. S. A.

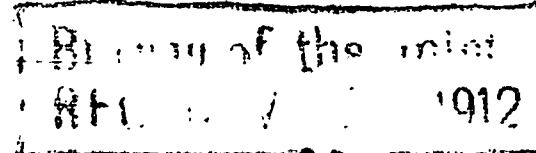
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59 HATTON GARDEN, LONDON, E. O.
40 SO. CLINTON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

WORCESTER, MASS.

November 2, 1912

Ans H-12-12
Director of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.



Dear Sir:

Some two weeks ago I addressed you requesting an appointment for the purpose of discussing the matter of the new Five-Cent Coin which it is proposed to issue; also for the purpose of showing you the Coin Detector which has been perfected for the handling of the coin now in use; and to see what can be done toward combining the proof points upon the two coins so that one coin detector will permit the use of both coins by the public, and still the public gain the advantage of automatic sales mechanism, which are now ready to go upon the market.

At that time, it was stated that you were out of the city and would return in two weeks. Will you kindly advise by return post when you will be in Washington and on what day it will be agreeable to you to have the undersigned call upon you on the errand as specified above. We believe this to be a matter of very great importance, else we would not trouble you with the matter, but believing it to be so, would urgently request the favor of the interview.

Yours truly,

HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO.

CWH.S

By *Carroll*
President

308449

HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO.,

PAPER BOX MACHINERY
AND
WOOD WORKING MACHINERY.

26 SALISBURY ST., WORCESTER, MASS., U. S. A.

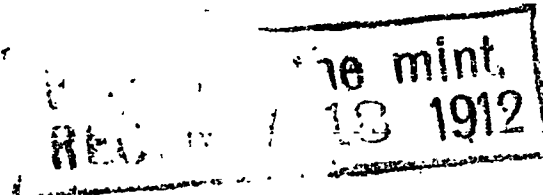
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59 HATTON GARDEN, LONDON, E. O.
40 SO. CLINTON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

Recd 11-15-12 *file* WORCESTER, MASS. November 13, 1912.

Hon. George E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.



Sir:

Your letter of November 12 is received and your consideration of my request is greatly appreciated. Mr. Fraser, the artist, has expressed himself in the same way to my associate who called on him at your suggestion.

Your proposal that our conference take place in New York, with the artist who is perfecting the designs, is eminently wise and acceptable and I will meet any appointment that may suit your convenience either this week or next, in New York.

Awaiting further advice from you as to date, I remain,

Respectfully,

HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO.

CWH.S

By

W. H. Hobbs
President.

308449

HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO.,

PAPER BOX MACHINERY,

26 SALISBURY ST., WORCESTER, MASS., U. S. A.

SALESROOMS { 162 WOOSTER ST., NEW YORK CITY.
59 HATTON GARDEN, LONDON, E. O.
40 SO. CLINTON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

WORCESTER, MASS. November 15, 1912.

Mr. Geo. E. Robert,

File
Director of The Mint,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

Acknowledging yours of the 14th, beg to state that the date you give for a meeting with yourself and Mr. Fraser in New York Tuesday, November 19th at 9 o'clock will be satisfactory to me, and I will be at the studio of Mr. Fraser at the time you state.

With thanks for your attention, I remain,

Yours truly,

C. W. Hobbs

CWH.C.

308449

HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO.,

PAPER BOX MACHINERY

AND
WOOD WORKING MACHINERY.

26 SALISBURY ST., WORCESTER, MASS., U. S. A.

SALESROOMS { 162 WOOSTER ST., NEW YORK CITY.
59 HATTON GARDEN, LONDON, E. O.
40 SO. CLINTON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

WORCESTER, MASS. November 22, 1912.

Mr. Geo. E. Roberts,

DIRECTOR OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C.

Bureau of the mint
REC. DIV 1912

Dear Sir:

Referring to the matter of the new five-cent coin and our interview on Tuesday last, in New York, I beg to enclose herewith a copy of a letter I am this day sending to Mr. Fraser.

As you will see by the letter, upon an examination of the coin we find that the change necessary will be extremely slight, consisting principally in reducing the length of the Buffalo figure a little more than 1/16" and providing a ring around inside the rim, both on the Indian side and on the Buffalo side.

We feel sure that Mr. Fraser will be able to make these changes without in any way detracting from the appearance of the coin. In fact most of the critics who have looked at it while the coin has been in my possession have felt that the Buffalo figure was rather large for the coin and that the coin would be improved by reducing this figure even so slightly as suggested.

This letter is sent you for your information and any help you can give us in smoothing the way with Mr. Fraser to make the necessary changes, will be very greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

HOBBS MANUFACTURING CO.

By

Geo. Hobbs
President.

CWH.S

ENC.

Mr. E. Roberts

308449

November 22, 1912.

Mr. J. E. Fraser,

3 MacDougall Alley,

New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Fraser:

I am returning to you today by Registered Post the two proof coins which you entrusted to me for measurement. In our study of these in connection with the current five-cent coin, and the coin testing machines, we find that there will be needed no change in design of the Buffalo side but only a slight change in proportion - or size.

The absolute requirements are:-

- (1) A root circle inside the rim on the reverse
- (2) A root circle inside the rim on the face which in this connection is the Buffalo
- (3) A broken circle inside the inscription
- (4) A bearing on the face (body) of the figure
- (5) A center bearing

With the proof coins I am sending to you a standard five-cent coin marked with the circles indicated, 1, 2, and 3; also the center point, 5. Herewith I hand you a drawing which gives the diameters and heights upon which we must rely to successfully test the old and the proposed new coins, and to separate them from foreign, false, and imitation coins and tokens.

November 22, 1912.

Mr. J. E. Fraser

1.

The design of the Buffalo and the Indian head are so excellent that it would be asking too much to have them changed, but the results desired can all be achieved by reducing the Buffalo figure $8/100$ of an inch in length and otherwise in proportion. This will give ample space for the outside circle, and the broken circle will then fall just outside the hump. The height between the root circle 2, and the circular bearing 4 and the center point 5 are easily accomplished without in any way altering the general design. The foundation for the feet could be lowered a trifle and the root circle 2 pass over it without altering the design. It is nearly low enough now.

There should also be a root circular bearing around the Indian head inside the rim, as shown upon the reverse of the marked coin. This is for the purpose of getting the standard thickness upon which the test measurements are based.

The bottom of the broken circle 3 need not be flat, but may be more or less so, provided we have approximately the root depth at all points.

With the slight changes indicated I cannot see that the appearance of the coin will be marred and the public will then be given the full advantage of the automatic sales devices which I described to you.

I am requesting Mr. C. U. Carpenter, our New York associate, who will have to meet the public in introducing these machines as sales agent of the American Stamp and Ticket Vending Machine Co., No. 30 Church street, for whom this company is acting.

November 23, 1912

Mr. J. E. Fraser

2

to call upon you and he will make any needful explanation of these matters.

Thanking you for the courtesy of your reception and greatly appreciating the interest shown by you and Mr. Roberts in this whole matter, I remain,

Sincerely yours, /

CWH.S

ENC.

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120 Liberty St.

New York, Nov. 16, 1912

Treasury Department,

and 12-2-12

Washington, D. C.

Attention of George E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint.

Gentlemen:-

Since writing you on July 12th, in reply to your favor of July 11th, re our ARGENTAL METAL Silver-Aluminum Alloy) we had no reply, and inasmuch as you are about to issue you new five (5%) cent coin, we believe it would be to your advantage to use our alloy ARGENTAL, instead of NICKEL, as the cost will be no greater, and the coin one third, or one fourth the weight, whiter and nontarnishable

If you would like to try this metal send us the size you require, and the B. & S. gage, and state whether hard, soft, or medium and we will send you sufficient for your test.

We are enclosing a sample of our latest rolled ARGENTAL, which is whiter than that previously sent you.

Awaiting an early reply, we are

Very truly yours,

NORTH AMERICAN SELLING CO.

J. W. Masetto Prest.

308449

CAPITAL, SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS \$30,000,000

Continental and Commercial National Bank of Chicago

GEORGE M. REYNOLDS, PRESIDENT

RALPH VAN VECHTEN, VICE PRESIDENT
ALEX ROBERTSON, VICE PRESIDENT
HERMAN WALDECK, VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN C. CRAFT, VICE PRESIDENT
JAMES R. CHAPMAN, VICE PRESIDENT
WILLIAM T. BRUCKNER, VICE PRESIDENT

WILLIAM G. SCHROEDER, VICE PRESIDENT
NATHANIEL R. LOSCH, CASHIER
HARVEY C. VERNON, ASST. CASHIER
GEORGE B. SMITH, ASST. CASHIER

EDWARD S. LACEY, CHAIRMAN OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WILBER HATTERY, ASST. CASHIER
H. ERSKINE SMITH, ASST. CASHIER
JOHN R. WASHBURN, ASST. CASHIER
WILSON W. LAMPERT, ASST. CASHIER
DAN NORMAN, ASST. CASHIER
FRANK L. SHEPARD, AUDITOR

Chicago,

January 20, 1913.

Hon. George E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

We thank you for your letter of the 18th inst.

The Treasurer has returned our draft with the statement that the new nickels will not be ready for distribution until February 15th. We will, prior to that date, send him a draft again and if at the proper time you can assist us in securing the coin we will appreciate it very much.

Yours very truly,



Assistant Cashier.

JRW:C.

308449

THE RECORDING REGISTER AND FARE BOX COMPANY

(INCORPORATED)

FARE REGISTERS, FARE BOXES AND RAILWAY SUPPLIES

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

P. O. Box 1228
128 WINCHESTER AVENUE

Jan 21/13

Secretary of Treasury,

Jan 17, 1913.

Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

We understand that the Government has made a change in the five cent piece, and as we are manufacturing Fare Boxes which are arranged to properly handle and register the current five cent coin, we are very much disturbed by the proposed new coin.

Will you kindly send us a sample of this coin so we can determine what effect it is going to have on our business? We desire this in order to test our mechanism.

Very truly yours,

THE RECORDING REGISTER & FARE BOX CO.

FBK/ACN

BY.....

Frank B. Kennedy
SECRETARY.

308449

CAPITAL, SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS \$30,000,000

Continental and Commercial National Bank of Chicago

GEORGE M. REYNOLDS, PRESIDENT

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JOHN R. WASHBURN, ASST. CASHIER
WILSON W. LAMPERT, ASST. CASHIER
DAN NORMAN, ASST. CASHIER
FRANK L. SHEPARD, AUDITOR

Cancel 1-25-13

Chicago, January 23, 1913.

Honorable George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

On January 16th we wrote you relative to the securing of \$2,000 in the new design of nickels, and you informed us that the amount could be obtained about February 15th.

Judging by the orders we are receiving from our various correspondents the amount for which we originally asked will be insufficient, and we would inquire if the amount of coin issued will permit of our securing \$5,000 of them.

Awaiting your reply, and thanking you in advance for the information which we assure you will be much appreciated, we remain

Yours very truly,

M. L. Smith
Assistant Cashier.

WHEG/B

A. H. WOODWARD,
PRESIDENT.

JOHN BENHAM,
VICE PRESIDENT.

ARTHUR C. FIELD,
SECRETARY.

W. J. VOLKINS,
TREASURER.

CABLE ADDRESS: REGISTER, CHICAGO.

The International Register Co.
Manufacturers of
Fare Registers and Railway Supplies

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE MONROE 571.

OFFICE & FACTORY
15 SOUTH THROOP STREET

308449
Ans'd 1-29-13 *Chicago* January 27, 1913.

Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir;--

We understand a new five cent piece is to be coined at once and that the design has been approved. As we manufacture a coin registering fare box for street car use and as the determination of the value of the five cent piece depends entirely upon its size, we are naturally interested in this new coin. We take it that while the design has been changed, the size has not and would very greatly appreciate specific information from you by early mail.

Yours very truly,

John Benham
Vice President,

B-G

DELAY MINTING NEW NICKELS

Slot-Machine Men Obtain Postponement—Coin Nullifies Invention.

[By the Associated Press.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 11.—Circulation of the proposed new nickel scheduled for Feb. 11, was postponed indefinitely today by the Treasury Department, because of protests of slot-machine interests.

Manufacturers vigorously complained that just as they had perfected chewing gum and other slot machines to refuse counterfeit nickels and "slugs" designed for fraud, the government was about to place in circulation a 5 cent piece the design of which would practically nullify their inventions.

308449
✓
Libertyville Ill
Feb 12th 1913

My Dear Taylor:-

Inform the Secretary that this objection on the part of slot machine makers - is all nonsense, but, their patent should not provide for a second time for you must know that 90% of the so called game machines are but a Subterfuge I. E. a stick of Cheap Gum dropping from the machine merely clears the owner from operating and maintaining a gambling device, here is the way it is worked. a nickel is placed in the slot of the machine, a lever is pressed down and the player stands to win from two to twenty checks (trans) each Check good for one nickel's worth in trade, at the Bar of a Saloon, or at the Counter of a Cigar Store, where the machine is located, but for every check so won, the player wins only the (aforesaid Gum), in some cases out of ten, he the player hardly if ever cares to stoop to the bottom of the machine for the Gum. which by the way goes back into the machine every time the lever is pressed down, on a new play, he will add more and not let these Cheap swindlers fool the Secretary. Yours truly H. H. H.

38849
Feb'y 13, 1913

SOME OF THE USES OF COIN OPERATED MACHINES

Telephone slot machines,

Railway ticket vending machines,

Street car & railway ticket vending machines

Postage stamp vending machines for use in post offices at all hours,
in drug stores, etc.

Parcel Post Stamps vending machines.

Postal Saving Stamp " "

Saving Bank Saving Stamp " "

Postal Card " "

Coin operated Musical Instruments

" " Phonographs

Money changing machines

Coin operated Biograph Instruments

" " Weighing Machines

Accident Policy Vending "

Coin operated Gas Meters.

Secret Service Department and Banks for instantaneous
detection of counterfeit coins.

Automatic coin operated photographic machines.

Merchandise Vending Machines almost without limit, of which
the following are a few:

Automatic Lunch Counters,

Soda Fountain checks

Chocolate Venders

Newspaper Venders

Cigar "

Match-box "

Condensed Milk "

Cups of Water "

Sheet Music

Biscuits (in packages) venders

Popcorn Products "

Collar venders

Umbrella "

Confectionery "

Towel & Soap

Peanut "

Chewing Gum "

Department Store venders

10¢ Store " "

&c., &c., &c.

CINCINNATI
CHICAGO
NEW YORK
PHILADELPHIA
ST. LOUIS
CLEVELAND
BUFFALO
LOUISVILLE
COLUMBUS, O.
DAYTON, O.
PROVIDENCE
NEWARK, N. J.
DETROIT

ESTABLISHED
1856

CABLE ADDRESS
"WURLITZER"

308449
PIANORCHESTRA
BIJOU ORCHESTRA
MILITARY BAND ORGANS
PIANOS
PLAYER PIANOS
VIOLIN PIANO
FLUTE PIANO
PIANINO
HARP
MANDOLIN SEXTET
WURLITZER
UNIT ORCHESTRA

The Rudolph Wurlitzer Co.

WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURERS OF
Automatic Musical Instruments

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

February 13, 1913.

Honorable Franklin MacVeagh,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Sir;

We wish to add our request to that which Mr. Henson will make that there will be retained certain uniform measurements between the present nickel and the new nickel to be issued so that our coin-operated machines may be protected from fraudulent and dummy coins. Unless some such uniformity be retained in the measurement it will be impossible for any coin tester to be built so as to accept two such different designs without at the same time accepting many slugs and bad coins. We consider this a matter of grave importance.

The larger part of our business is in coin operated machines and the coin most used is the nickel which makes any change in the nickel of such great importance. That the business is of magnitude you will appreciate from the fact that we have 14 distributing offices and stores in various parts of this country and while we are the leaders in this line of business there are others in the same line of business also interested. We have 2 factories and employ between 4000 and 5000 men. These coin-operated machines are of 53 different styles ranging in price from \$400 to \$6000 apiece.

Asking your most serious consideration, we are

Yours very truly,

THE RUDOLPH WURLITZER CO.

per

Henry J. Henson
Address Reply to THE RUDOLPH WURLITZER CO., 912 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

308449



PRIVATE OFFICE

H.O. WILBUR & SONS, INC.
MANUFACTURERS OF
COCOA AND CHOCOLATE
PHILADELPHIA
CABLE ADDRESS
WILBUR-PHILADELPHIA

February 13, 1913.

To the Honorable Franklin MacVeagh,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We do not need to tell you that the sales of chocolate through vending machines are of considerable magnitude, but these sales have been practically restricted to one cent machines, because the one cent unit was not of sufficient size to tempt the public to defraud to any material degree.

We believe it may be truly said that the five cent vending machine for chocolate is not used to any extent, because the five cent unit is sufficient to tempt a large proportion of the public to rob the machines by means of slugs, dummies, and bogus coins.

We are creditably informed that in the Reeth-Flade Coin Tester, an apparatus has been devised which will protect venders of chocolates and other merchandise using slot machines. We are further informed that just when this invention has about been brought to perfection, its value is in danger of being largely destroyed by the issue of a new nickel lacking sufficient dimensions in accord with the old nickel, to make it possible for both the old and the new nickels to be accepted in the same slot machine.

308444

To the Honorable Franklin MacVeagh,

February 13, 1913.

We hope you will give serious consideration to the question of the design of the new nickel, because were business of slot vending machines protected by an efficient coin tester, large fields for the development of vending machines would be opened.

This is an industry which has grown largely in Germany, in which country it is a crime to defraud slot machines by the use of slugs or counterfeit coins. In this country the courts have held that the makers of slot machines must make them so as not to accept dummies or counterfeit coins, and it is no crime here to rob such machines.

Requesting your careful consideration, we are,

Very truly yours,

H. O. WILBUR & SONS, Inc.

by W. H. Williams
W. Williams

Ans 2-18-13

308449

Department of Commerce and Labor

LAF
WP

BUREAU OF STANDARDS

Washington

ADDRESS REPLY TO
BUREAU OF STANDARDS

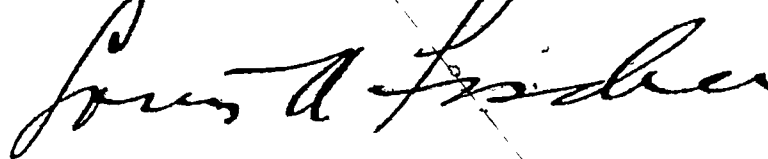
February 15, 1913.

Hon. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

In regard to the new nickel that you showed me at Philadelphia, would it not be possible in considering the diameter of this coin to make it exactly 2 centimeters rather than an arbitrary diameter? The present coin is apparently 21 millimeters; but as I understand it, the proposition is to reduce this somewhat. Unless there are some very good reasons to the contrary, I would suggest that you consider the proposition of making it exactly 2 centimeters, and thus it may be possible to use it as a unit of measure as well as value.

Very sincerely yours,



Chief, Div. of Weights and Measures.

30 Sept 9

February 18, 1913.

H. O. Wilbur & Sons,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt, through Mr. Henson, of
your letter of the 13th inst. relative to the new five cent nickel
piece and thank you for it.

Respectfully,

Secretary.

G. E. A.
no 13

308449

February 18, 1913.

The Rudolph Wurlitzer Co.,
912 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt, through Mr. Henson, of
your letter of the 13th inst. relative to the new five cent nickel
piece and thank you for it.

Respectfully,

Secretary.

W. E. A.
11.3

30844.9

*Edward F. Henson & Co.***LUMBER & MILLWORK**CABLE ADDRESS:-
"HENSON" PHILADELPHIA

Codes Used

AMERICAN LUMBERMAN TELECODE, WESTERN UNION
SOUTHARD'S A.B.C. 4TH & 5TH EDITIONS, A1 CODE ZEBRAKEYSTONE & BELL
LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONES*File*Office { 921 North Delaware Ave.
Planing Mill { Beach, Poplar & Delaware Ave.
and Wharves { Piers 37 & 38 North Wharves.*Philadelphia* February 19, 1913.Hon. George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

I thank you for your courteous letter of February 18th^a enclosing copy of the decision of the Secretary.

I feel certain that, had we been able to make Mr. Mac-
Veagh understand the seriousness of the situation and understand
that this coin tester is practically the only one out of the many
hundreds that have been invented and worked over that approaches
perfection, and I believe it is 99% perfect, the Secretary would
have decided in our favor. Not, of course, out of regard for
the inventors or for the company which has planned to manufacture
the coin testers, but because this coin tester would have opened
the way for a great industrial development in vending machines
impossible without protection from foreign and counterfeit coins
and slugs. Unfortunately the Secretary would need to be a mechan-
ical expert to enable him to understand.

To enable any coin tester to work to accept two coins,
there should be a few common measurements retained; the change
throws the business into confusion. In bringing the coin tester
to its present perfection, Reith has worked out problems seemingly
unsurmountable, but in doing it his health nearly failed complete-
ly, which caused me to take him to my own physician, who told me
that the man was nearly insane. It is barely possible that Reith
may solve the problem, difficult as it is, to work the new nickel
and the old, but I seriously fear for his health in attempting it.

I know the Secretary thinks the design of the new coin
is beautiful, but I have failed to find among my friends, to a few
of whom I have shown the coin, any that are of the Secretary's
opinion. So far as the artist is concerned he is a fadist in
his views. It seems to me such a pity that so much should be
sacrificed that a coin of such doubtful artistic value should be
issued.

I wish to thank you particularly for your courteous treat-
ment of the matter, and I ask your pardon for this lengthy letter.

Yours very truly,

EDWARD F. HENSON

Dic. Henson-M

308449

U. S. STAMP BOOK

COMPANY, Inc.

ELATIRON BUILDING
314 East 34th Street.

New York City Feb. 19, 1913.

Telephone 6187 Gramercy

V. H. KIMMELMANN
Advertising Director

Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We note through the different newspapers, you anticipate shortly, a change in the United States nickel.

As we are about to place a large number of vending machines on the market, these machines are to vend with a nickel only, will you kindly let us know, at your earliest convenience, whether the size and thickness of new nickel will be different than the one now in use, and also how soon you expect to have these new nickels in circulation.

Any information you may give us in this matter will certainly be appreciated by

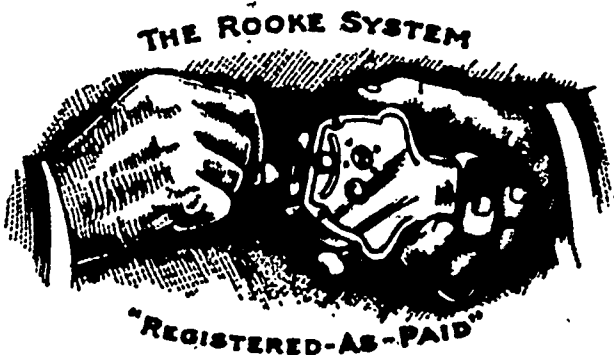
Yours very truly,

U. S. STAMP BOOK CO. INC.

ECA/ML

E. C. Angell VICE PRESIDENT.

308449



ROOKE AUTOMATIC REGISTER CO.,

OFFICE AND FACTORY

George F. Rooke, Gen'l M'gr.

PROVIDENCE, R. I. Feb. 19,
1913.

Hon. Secretary, Macveigh,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

I have just noticed in the daily paper that the new nickel is ordered circulated in the cars in about a week and I judge certain slot machine interests have made some objection to the new coin. As the diameter of this particular coin is quite a serious matter to us, we wish you to have certain information in reference to our fare collecting register which is now upon the market some four or five years and there are scores of street railway companies throughout the United States using these machines; in fact we have never secured a contract from any company and had the registers returned as being a failure and it is predicted that they will become the standard register throughout the United States.

This register is made to receive 5¢ pieces, representing the universal unit of car fare throughout the United States. I am inclosing under separate cover one of our slot pieces which you will note is made to receive coins of the largest diameter of any nickels now issued, but it would be a serious matter should this diameter be increased as this machine also takes care of dimes and registers two points for a dime. Therefore the diameter of the nickel enters into the construction in this relation. The thickness, so long as it is not much thicker than the present nickel, does not interfere with our construction.

The largest city now using our register is Providence and the Rhode Island Company who control practically everything in the city, are collecting over five million dollars annually through these machines, - all in nickels. Therefore, you can see that if a coin should be circulated that would not go into this slot it would mean that they would immediately have to discard this system until we could make certain changes in the construction, which, I will say, is possible, though it would cost us considerable money. We would beg of you, therefore, not to have this nickel circulated until we have had chance to change our machines throughout the country, that is, provided the diameter is greater than our present nickel and must be maintained. From a street railway company's standpoint they would consider it quite a loss to have to discard our register as it has been proven again and again that the system is saving them approximately 5% of their gross receipts on account of irregularities in registration under the old methods. The register is absolutely automatic and registers each coin just in advance of its being received by the conductor. It is a protection to the honest man as well as a protection to the company against the dishonest man and it is highly endorsed not only by hundreds of conductors, but officially, by the Amalgamated St. Ry. Employees' Assn. of America.

308449

#2-----

Hon. Sec. Macveigh.

We hope that we may have some further word and if it is possible for you to send us a sample of this coin, we would be glad to test it out and write you again. We inclose stamps in exchange for the coin.

Thanking you in advance for an early reply, beg
to remain,

Very truly yours,

ROOKE AUTOMATIC REGISTER COMPANY,

George F. Rook

General Manager.

per m

102

308449

CHICAGO TELEPHONE COMPANY

GENERAL OFFICES

CHICAGO, February 20, 1913.

Feb 24/13.
Mr. W. V. Kelly,

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

Acting Director of the Mint, Treasury Dept.,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to an inquiry I addressed to you in July, 1912, as to the question of a change in the dimensions or weight of the new five cent (5¢) nickel coin, you were good enough to reply under date of July 25th (S), that although the design was to be changed, there would be no change in dimensions or weight of this coin.

Recently various news items have appeared in the press to the effect that the new coins were to be larger than the old. May we again trouble you to advise us if any change has been made in the plans or if the new coin is to be of the same dimension and weight as the old?

A stamped envelope is enclosed for reply.

Yours truly,

A. R. Bone
Commercial Superintendent.

C:G

308449

Johnson Coin Counting Machine Company

C.H. BIRDSALL, President.
W.P. BUTLER, V. President.
W.D.C. STREET, Secretary.
J.W. FRANK, Treasurer.

Ans Feb 24
239 Fourth Avenue,
New York

Feb. 21st, 1913

Hon. George E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

We have received a number of inquiries from our customers, of which there are several thousand using coin counters of different designs, regarding the thickness and diameter of the new nickel, which we see from newspaper reports is to be issued in about two weeks.

We would greatly appreciate having you advise us if there is to be any change in the thickness and diameter of the new nickel so that we may inform our customers, among which are many street railways, other public utilities companies, banks, et cetera, throughout the country.

Respectfully yours

Johnson Coin Counting Machine Co.

per *[Signature]*

Treas.

308449

SIXTY-SECOND CONGRESS.

JOHN LAMB, VA., CHAIRMAN.
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LOUIS B. HANNA, N. DAK.
FRANK PLUMLEY, VT.
JAMES S. SIMMONS, N. Y.

M. M. TYLER, CLERK.

Committee on Agriculture,

House of Representatives U. S.,

Washington, D. C.

February 23, 1913.

Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

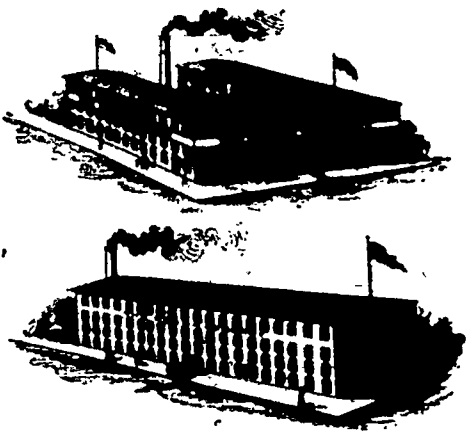
I am in receipt of a request for information as to the size of the new nickel coin which is to be issued for circulation. My constituent desires to know if it will be the same size and thickness as the one now in use.

I shall appreciate an early reply,

Very truly yours,

John A. McGuire

308449



THE REGINA COMPANY

RAILWAY N.Y.
GENERAL SALES OFFICE NEW YORK 47 WEST 34th ST.
WESTERN BRANCH CHICAGO 218 S. WABASH AVE.

MANUFACTURERS
of
Music Boxes
Hexaphones
Pneumatic Cleaners
Mandolin Orchestrions
The New Era Press

9/1-28/13

New York, February 26, 1913.

Treasury Department,

Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

As manufacturers of coin operated automatic music makers, we have a good deal of anxiety over the new five cent piece which we understand will shortly be put in circulation.

Thousands of our instruments are scattered over the States and we are very anxious to know in what way the new coin will differ from the old. Isn't it possible for you to send us a sample of the new coin? If not, give us the diameter, thickness and weight of this coin so that we will know just what changes we will have to make in our coin device.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter, we beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

THE REGINA COMPANY

Charles

C*H.

A National
Society for
the Protection of
Natural Scenery,
the Preservation
of Historic Land-
marks and the
Improvement of
Cities - Incor-
porated in 1895

Founded by
Andrew H. Green

Officers

Honorary President

J. PIERPONT MORGAN, LL.D.

President

GEORGE F. KUNZ, PH.D., SC.D.

Vice-Presidents

DEAN L. H. BAILEY

H. M. LEIPZIGER, PH.D. LL.D.

HON. GEORGE W. PERKINS

COL. HENRY W. SACKETT

Treasurer

HON. N. TAYLOR PHILLIPS

51 Chambers Street

Counsel

HENRY E. GREGORY

25 Liberty Street

Secretary

EDW'D HAGAMAN HALL, L.H.D.

Tribune Building

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FREDERICK S. LAMB

HON. THOMAS H. LEE

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EDWARD L. PARTRIDGE, M.D.

GORDON H. PECK

HON. GEORGE W. PERKINS

HON. N. TAYLOR PHILLIPS

HON. THOMAS R. PROCTOR

HON. HERMAN RIDDER

COL. HENRY W. SACKETT

HON. CHARLES A. SPOFFORD

HON. STEPHEN H. THAYER

HON. CALVIN TOMKINS

ALBERT ULMANN

CHARLES D. VAIL, L.H.D.

The American

Scenic and Historic Preservation Society

Tribune Building

New York City February 26, 1913.
401 Fifth Avenue.

Hon. George E. Roberts,
Director of the United States Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Director Roberts:

I thank you for your esteemed favor of the
24th instant.

THE NICKEL 5¢ PIECES

were one of the features of the Indian Memorial, and
no one more than the President, myself, and our Indian
guests, could feel greater appreciation, nor express
more marked approval of these novel and beautiful
products of the Mint, than were felt and expressed
when the bag of coins was opened and the pieces dis-
tributed.

I wonder if it is possible to have either
100 or 200 more of them? The Art people are so much
pleased with them that they want more. Two of the
coins went to the ^{new exhibition} ~~Scenic Society~~, and two were placed
on exhibition in the American Numismatic Society. I
expect to be in Washington on Monday and Tuesday, and
will try to visit you on Monday.

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

President

George F. Kunz

313918

X

308449

Brussels, March 18/14.

Dear Mr. Roberts:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th ultimo requesting information in regard to the perforated nickel coins in circulation in Belgium.

These I am sure give entire satisfaction. I am informed by the Director of the Belgian Mint that they experience no mechanical difficulty whatever in coining them, and he assures me that the use of improved apparatus permits of the cutting of a regular hole in the cutting and produces no castings in the stamping of the coins.

The government here has not experimented with aluminum and at the Mint they say that coins made of this metal would be, at the ordinary dimensions, entirely too light.

As an example of the tendency, which seems inseparable from advancing civilization, to coin pieces of low denomination, it may interest you to know that the Belgian coins of one and two centimes are greatly used by the working classes.

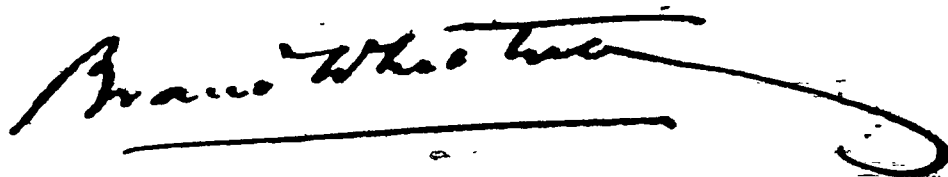
sent to
Dunk
9/27

During the past twelve years two centime pieces to the value of \$135,000., and one centime pieces to the value of \$50,000. have been coined and issued.

I enclose three nickel coins, one of each denomination, as you request.

I have noticed in the newspapers in the last few days references to the fact that the French Government is about to replace the old copper "sous", which as you know were as clumsy as the English penny, with perforated nickel pieces, and if these statements are correct and the French Government has adopted them, it would be evidence of their convenience and practicability.

Respectfully,



Enclosures:

Three nickel coins.

Hon. George E. Roberts,

Director of the Mint,

Treasury Department, Washington.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

FILE NO. 311716

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

February 19, 1913.

Ans 2-20-13

Hon. Geo. E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

In accordance with your telegram of today I am forwarding you herewith two dollars in the new design nickels. No delivery of these nickels has as yet been made. We have \$25,000 coined and will be able to start 20 presses on them in the morning and expect to turn out a like amount tomorrow. The other four presses are small and not strong enough for the coinage of nickel.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Towers

311716

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

February 18, 1913.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I beg to inform you that in accordance with the instructions in your telegram of yesterday we have stopped the work on one-cent bronze pieces and have placed the entire rolling room on nickel. The coinage of the new five-cent piece has been begun and more presses will be started as quickly as the blanks can be manufactured. I would thank you to inform me if any date has been selected for the issue of this coin. Please advise me of the date upon which the design was approved.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis
Superintendent.

We have received orders for the shipment of the new five cent piece from the Treasurer U.S. and from the Assistant Treasurers.

311716

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

February 20, 1913.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

For your information I beg to report that we have on hand \$30,000 in new design 5-cent nickel pieces, ready for delivery, and expect to have \$20,000 additional by tomorrow night.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis

Superintendent.

311716

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA.)

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

February 21, 1913.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I beg to inform you that a delivery of \$40,000
in new design five cent nickel pieces has been made to-
day and we expect an additional delivery of \$25,000 on
Monday.

Respectfully,



Superintendent.

311716



OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

DENVER, COLO. February 24th, 1913.

Bureau of the Mint
REC. FEB 23 1913

The Director of the Mint,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

The new nickel dies reached here from Philadelphia
(July 21)
late Friday afternoon. As promised in my telegram of the 17th (Monday)
we are making the first delivery of the new coins this after-
noon - \$5,000.00 in amount. I wired you that we could deliv-
er about \$4,500 daily; since then I have arranged so that the de-
liveries for the next ten days should average \$6,500.00 daily.
I have a considerable stock of nickel ingots on hand and am
utilizing the ingot melting room force in the rolling room of
the coining department and am thus enabled to increase the out-
put over what I estimated a week ago.

I enclose herewith five of the new coins stamped this
afternoon. I regard the design as exceedingly artistic and
think the coins are very beautiful. There will evidently be a
considerable demand for them both locally and farther east, and
I am making every effort to keep up with the demand.

Respectfully,

Frederick M. Downer
Superintendent.

311716

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

February 24, 1913.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I beg to inform you that by tomorrow morning we will have coined \$100,000 in new design five-cent nickel pieces.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis.
Superintendent.

Feb 26/13
J. W. S.

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM

311716
TREASURY
DEPT.
FEB
25
1912
TELEGRAPH
OFFICE.

11PO MO 31 Govt

DENVER COLO Feb 25 1913

Director of Mint

Washington, D.C.

Request authority to anticipate twenty five thousand dollars profits
nickel coinage for February so that treasurer's transfer orders
this coin may be promptly filled

Downer, Supt

356pm

311716

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

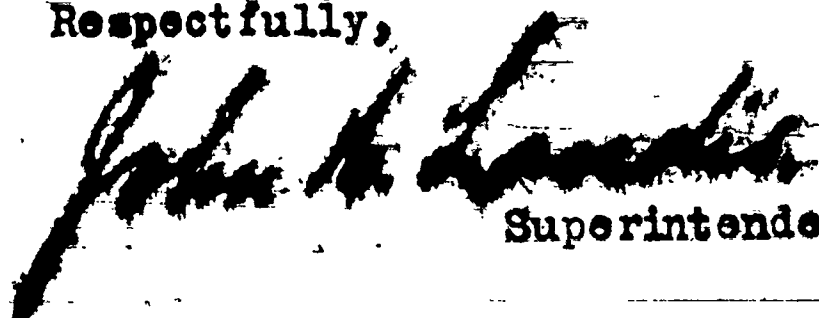
February 25, 1913.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In reply to your telegram of today I beg to
advise you that we have on hand orders amounting to
\$172,500 for the new design five-cent nickel piece.
At the close of business today we will have coined
\$125,000 of this piece.

Respectfully,


Superintendent.

311716

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

February 27, 1913.

Director of the Mint
Feb. 27 1913

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

~~I beg to report that the orders for the new five-~~
cent nickel piece now amount to \$276,000, and the coinage
at the close of business today will amount to \$178,000.

\$45,000 in the new design nickel piece have this
day been shipped on Transfer Orders to the Subtreasuries.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis

Superintendent.

377716

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

February 26, 1913.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I beg to inform you that the orders for the
new five cent nickel piece now amount to about \$225,000
and the amount coined at the close of business today,
\$153,000.

Respectfully,

John H. Landis
Superintendent.

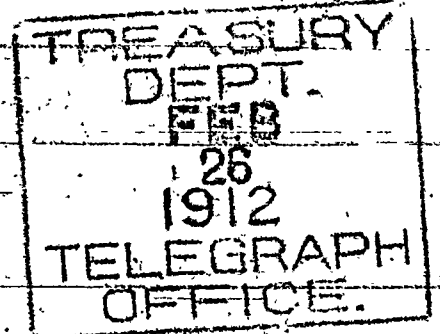
311716

Amend 2-26-13

File

Treasury Department

TELEGRAM



2PO MO 32 Govt

B PHILADELPHIA PA Feb 26 1913

Director of the Mint

Washington, D.C.

Received from Treasurer transfer orders for new nickels to sub-treasuries Chicago ten thousand, Boston and Cincinnati five thousand each, no instructions. Shall we ship today

Landis

1157am

311716

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

March 3, 1913.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In reference to the pattern pieces of the new design 5-cent nickel piece, I beg to inform you that there were struck, in your presence, on January 13, 1913, from the Designer's dies, seventeen (17) specimens. Fifteen (not fourteen, as stated in your letter of 24th instant) were taken by you, one was retained by the Superintendent of the Coining Department, and one was given to the Engraver.

The record of these stands as follows:

- 2 placed in the coin collection. (Bureau letter Feb. 24, 1913)
- 6 destroyed, February 28, 1913.
- 1 given to the Designer.
- 1 placed in the corner-stone of All Souls' Church, Washington, laid by the President.
- 3 not returned by the Secretary of the Treasury.
- 1 lost, (Bureau letter, February 24, 1913)
- 1 not accounted for. (Mentioned above)
- 1 in the possession of the Engraver of this mint.
- 1 in the possession of the Chief Clerk of this mint.
- 17 total.

On January 21, 1913, nine (9) specimens of the new design 5-cent nickel piece were struck from the dies as modified by the Engraver. These are the dies which were afterward adopted and from which the coins for circulation are now being struck. The record of these special pieces is as follows:

- 1 sent to the Bureau, January 21, 1913.
- 1 to the Designer, February 5, 1913.
- 1 to Mr. Hobbs, February 5, 1913.
- 1 sent to the Bureau, February 13, 1913.
- None of these four has been returned.
- 5 destroyed, February 28, 1913.
- 9 total

(2)

On February 13, 1913, four specimens of the new design 5-cent nickel piece were struck from dies with a diameter slightly greater than the standard. These dies were made in order to show the effect of a small space between the design and the border and with the intention, if it were thought desirable to have this space, of reducing the design so as to bring the coin to the standard diameter.

The record of these pieces is as follows:

- 1 left with the Secretary of the Treasury, February 14, 1913.
- 2 placed in the Cabinet (Bureau letter Feb. 24, 1913)
- 1 destroyed, February 28, 1913.
- 4 total

These are all the pattern pieces struck from the dies of the new design 5-cent nickel piece, adopted February 17, 1913, except trial pieces struck by the Engraver and the Superintendent of the Coining Department, all of which trial pieces were immediately destroyed.

Respectfully,


Superintendent.

311716

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

March 3, 1913.

Bureau of the mint
REC. MAR 5 1913

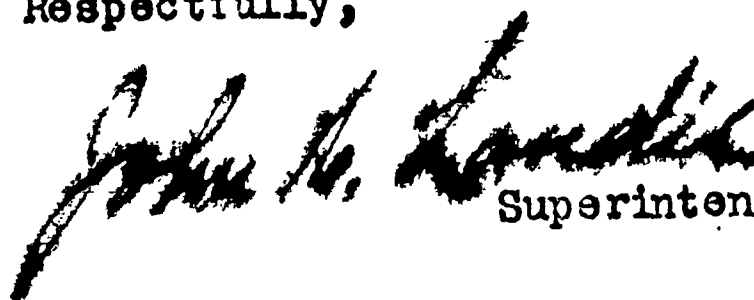
The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I beg to inform you that, in accordance with your letter of the 24th instant, there were destroyed in the presence of the Engraver and myself six (6) pattern pieces struck from the designer's dies of the new 5-cent nickel piece.

There were also destroyed at the same time five (5) pattern pieces struck from the dies of the same piece, as modified by the Engraver; also, one (1) piece struck from the dies of larger diameter; also, four (4) Assay Medals of the year 1911.

Respectfully,


Superintendent.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE W. MCCRAY, PRESIDENT

RECEIVED AT
POSTAL TELEGRAPH BUILDING
1345 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
TELEPHONES MAIN 6600-6601

TELEGRAM

DELIVERY No.

311716

The Postal Telegraph Cable Company Incorporated transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank

WW-2783

DESIGN PATENT No. 40629

201ch-m 21 GR

Denver Colo Mch 7th13

Director of Mint

Washn, DC.

Please have forty thousand dollars minor coinage nickel profits
deposited and transferred by wire.

Downer Supt 455p

Reg Mar 8/13

339

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE M. MACKAY, PRESIDENT.

DELIVERY NO.

NIGHT TELEGRAM

RECEIVED AT

311716

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company (Incorporated) transmits and delivers night messages subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

DESIGN PATENT APPLIED FOR.

24
333

64NY GO 33 NIGHT GOVT

Denver Colo March 6-13

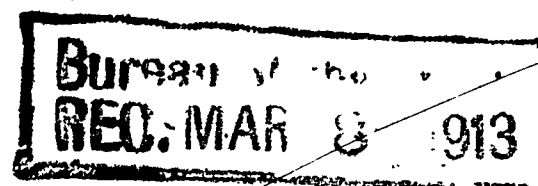
Director of The Mint,

Washington DC.

Began filling treasurers orders for shipment new nickels to
banks February twenty fourth and have filled all subsequent orders
on date of their receipt here.

Downer Supt.

436a

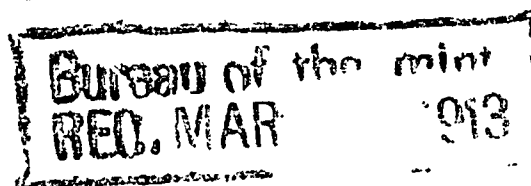


650

311716

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

March 12, 1913.



The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 10th instant, asking whether it is not practicable for us to increase the output of new nickels, I beg to say that we are now running the melting, rolling and coining rooms on overtime and are making every endeavor to keep up with the demand for the new coin. Since the first of March we have coined \$350,000 in nickels and we think that this is doing remarkably well.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John H. Kneass".

Superintendent.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT

RECEIVED AT
POSTAL TELEGRAPH BUILDING
1345 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
TELEPHONES MAIN 6600-6601

TELEGRAM

DELIVERY No.

534 311716

The Postal Telegraph Cable Company (Incorporated) transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank

16W-2783

DESIGN PATENT No. 40328

614 AG. MR. 19 G. R.

Denver, Colo., March 26-1913.

Director of Mint,

Washington, D.C.

Please have fifty thousand dollars nickel profits deposited and transferred by wire.

Downer, Supt.

1153 P.M.

NEW NICKEL COMING OUT

Coinage Ordered by Treasury Official

EFFECTS MACHINE OF HOBBS CO.

Worcester Men Notified of Decision

Coinage of the new nickel to have been put in circulation Saturday, was ordered by Secretary Franklin MacVeagh of the United States treasury department at Washington yesterday, despite objection of the Hobbs Manufacturing Co., Worcester, who claimed it would affect a new slot ticket machine placed upon the market to the extent that it would make its patented coin detector practically valueless.

Secretary MacVeagh said the new coin will have an Indian head on the face and a buffalo on the reverse side, and that it will be placed in circulation in the course of a week.

President Clarence W. Hobbs of the company has returned to Washington again on a business trip, and in his absence none of the other officials wanted to be quoted on what effect the decision will have on the company's new machine.

Treasurer Harry W. Goddard, when asked what effect the decision will have on the company's plans, said the company will have to get around it somehow, so that the new nickels can be as good as old for use in the machines, which he believes will require considerable experimenting with the coin detector.

Whether both the present and the new nickel could be used successfully in the machines eventually, he was unable to say, but he thought an attempt would be made to adjust the detector so that it could accept both kinds.

Atty. Charles C. Milton, counsel for the company, said he does not think the new nickel will be placed in circulation, as announced by the secretary, though he will not say the company is to take further steps to prevent such a course.

Mr. Goddard later said that so far as he knows, the company does not contemplate taking any further steps to prevent the issuance of the new nickel and that he considers the secretary's decision final.

The only effect the new coin will have is with the coin detector and not with the ticket machine itself. The detector is a separate part of the machine, and is placed inside, so that when a coin is inserted in the slot it first has to pass through the detector before it releases a ticket. If the coin is a good one, it passes out a ticket, otherwise it is returned to the person who puts it in, without a ticket.

The detector is made for the use of the present five-cent pieces only, and will not pass any other kind of a coin.

With two machines now in use at the Hudson terminal, New York, 35,000 tickets have been sold without a single bad nickel being found.

HAS NEW NICKEL

Hobbs Brings It With Him on Return from Trip to Washington.

President Clarence W. Hobbs of the Hobbs Manufacturing Co. is the first Worcester man to get one of the new nickels that Secretary of the treasury Franklin MacVeagh has ordered to be coined and which are expected to be placed in circulation inside a week.

Mr. Hobbs returned from a business trip to Washington last night, during which he had an interview with the head of the treasury department.

Though the coins are expected to be plentiful inside of a month, Mr. Hobbs thinks a good deal of the one he has and says he is going to keep it as a souvenir.

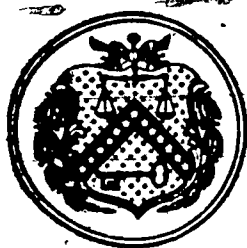
The nickel will be tested in the coin detectors the company puts in its slot ticket machines.

As the new nickel has a raised Indian figure on its face and a figure of a buffalo on the reverse side, though not raised, the coin detector is not adapted to it.

Experiments will be made so that it can be adapted, but whether it can be remodeled so that both the old and new nickels can be used successfully, remains to be seen.

311716

312300



OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

April 29, 1913.

Director of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.

Bureau of the mi.
REC. 5 10 13

Sir:-

Your telegram of the 29th., instant, directing us to discontinue the coinage of nickels, received. I had anticipated this order some ten or twelve days ago, finding that we had a sufficient stock on hand to supply the requests for the new nickels for some time to come. It is somewhat remarkable, notwithstanding the great number of the new nickels that have been taken out through banks and private individuals, that they do not appear as yet in general circulation. While going about the city, and especially while traveling on street cars, I have failed to see a single one of the new nickels changing hands and have made many inquiries as to the observations of others, and find about the same experience.

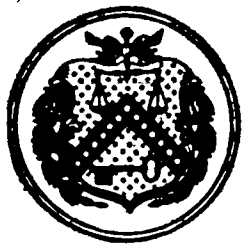
As our stock of half dollars is very low, I will make a small run on that denomination before closing down for settlement, as also a run on bronze. With the Philippine work necessary to complete before settlement, I will have no opportunity to coin any gold.

Respectfully,

Superintendent

312300

311716



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

May 16, 1913.

Director of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 12th., instant, I beg to state that we have on hand \$39,800.00 of the buffalo-indian head design nickels from the old dies. These will be stored and none will be given out until further notice is received from you.

We will make nickel ingots on Monday and will be able to begin distributing 5-cent pieces from the new dies by Friday. (May 28.)

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to E. A. Tamm, Acting Superintendent.

Acting Superintendent.

311716

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

May 23, 1913.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

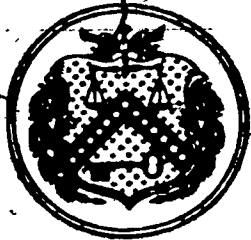
In reply to your letter of the 22d instant I beg
to inform you that the coinage of the first variety of the
buffalo 5-cent nickel piece ceased on May 8th. The regular
coinage was 30,992,000 pieces, proofs 1,520, total 30,993,520
pieces. The last delivery was on May 9th, \$22,750.00.

The coinage of the second variety began on May 9th and
the first delivery was on the following day, \$7,600.00.

Respectfully,

Albert A. Norris
Acting Superintendent.

1913



OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

311716
312^x300

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

May 26, 1913.

Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Bureau of the mint
RECD. MAY 31 1913

Sir:-

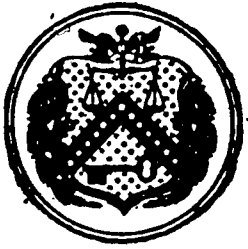
In reply to your communication of the 22nd.,
instant, I beg to advise that we struck 2,105,000
pieces of the Indian head-buffalo design nickels
from the original dies, and discontinued their
use on April 19, 1913.

Respectfully,

Frank A. Beach

Superintendent.

on hand \$39.800



OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

DENVER, COLO.

May 27th, 1913.

The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Bureau of the mint
RECD. MAY 31 1913

Sir:-

Referring to your letter of the 22nd instant,-
there were coined at this institution from the original
design Buffalo nickel pieces to the number of 5,337,000.
Coinage of these was discontinued on April 29th as per
your telegram of that date, and issuance of them was stop-
ped on May 16th, the date of receipt of your letter of the
13th instant.

Respectfully,

Frank M. Gardner
Superintendent.

No on hand 10¢ does not to be paid
H 115,819.55

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT

RECEIVED AT

TELEGRAM

DELIVERY NO.

311716

274

The Postal Telegraph Cable Company Incorporated transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank

16L-11957

DESIGN PATENT No. 40328

~~312810~~

116chrw 84 Govt

Denver Co Aug 20 1913

Director Of Mint

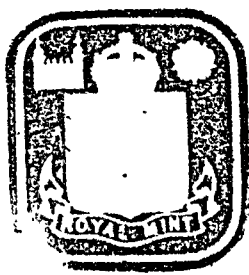
Washington DC

Referring to your letter May twelfth and my reply may
sixteenth concerning nickels of indian Buffalo design have order
from Treasurer for shipment twenty thousand
dollars nickels. Have on hand but seven thousand dollars
in nickels struck from modified dies but have on hand
one hundred fifteen thousand dollars nickels indian Buffalo
design struck from Original dies in view of your direction in
letter May twelfth to store original die nickels until further
notice ask for instructions

Downer Supt

655p-

304815



ROYAL MINT.

4th. January, 1912.

Dear Mr. Clark,

I received your letter of the 16th. ultimo in the midst of Christmas confusion but will try and send a reply this week: it is, however, rather a complex question you ask and I don't feel that I have command of all the facts.

Your two minor coins are:

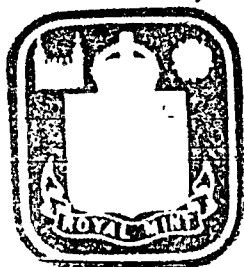
5 cent - Nickel Bronze, 0.835" diam. and 77.16 grains weight.

1 cent - Bronze 0.750" " " 48.0 " "

and you want to add another coin which may be 3, 2½ or ½ cent. It seems clear that such a coin would not be acceptable if it exceeded the 5 cent in size and, as coins go, that is fairly small. In our own Colonial and Indian coins there are the following minor coins which are comparable as regards size and value with the one you have in view. I refer only to such as are designed to be readily identified and pass by those of ordinary shape.

INDIAN ANNA. This, to which you particularly refer, is struck only at Bombay and from the introduction of this coin in 1908 to the end of 1910, no less than 84,592,000 were struck. We have no experience of striking them, having only advised on mechanical points on their introduction and prepared all their standard gauges and various tools, but I have understood from the authorities at Bombay that the work progresses now very smoothly and no serious difficulties are experienced, while the dies stand well. The metal is nickel-bronze, 25% nickel, 60 grains, ^{& the weight} I can only find that we have two of these pieces in the

Mint



Mint and one of these is enclosed. I am pretty sure that these coins are not "marked" or milled but that the edge is entirely brought up in the press. We sent a special machine of the profiling-machine type for forming the cutters, bed-plates, dies and collars and I presume this machine is still in use. The greater and less diameters you will see correspond approximately with those of your two minor coins.

NIGERIA ONE-TENTH PENNY, and East Africa and Uganda 1 cent (of a rupee = 1s. 4d.) and $\frac{1}{2}$ cent. Specimens of the blanks - marked and unmarked- and of all these coins are enclosed. They are of nickel-bronze (25% nickel) and their weights and diameters are as follows:-

Nigeria one-tenth penny 0.80" diam. and 30 grains weight.

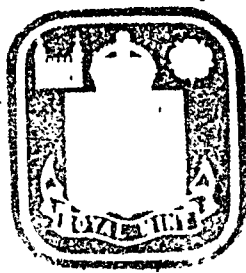
Uganda 1 cent 0.88" " " 45. " " -

" $\frac{1}{2}$ " 0.80" " " 30 " "

All these blanks, as well as larger ones which we make for coins up to our penny size (1.213") are cut in special machines we have fitted up - the hole being first punched and a pump centre then passes - a fit - into the hole while the disc is cut. Very good centring is secured and practically no waste. Great care is necessary to secure that the design on both sides is reasonably symmetrical round the hole - otherwise you cannot maintain it circular - and two very shallow lumps are left in the centres of the dies which do not touch when the blow is given but serve to centre the blank and finish the edges of the hole.

The pieces are easy to cut and strike and present no serious difficulties. The hole was preferred as the natives of Africa were expected to string their coins, but I hear this is rarely done: I don't like the system as a means of

distinction:

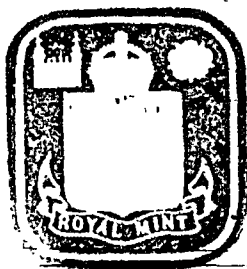


distinction: it is useless when coins are in rouleaux, harbours dirt and only really serves when coins are spread out. You will note that we have got the weight down to a very low figure and the pieces are thin: nevertheless they coin fairly well and in 1910 we averaged 80,869 pieces of 30 grains per pair of dies and 205,451 of the 45 grain pieces per pair.

CEYLON 5-cent (of a rupee). Soon after the introduction of the Indian serrated Anna, Ceylon asked to have a special 5/cent piece (=one-twentieth rupee, whereas the anna = one-sixteenth rupee) and we designed the square coin with rounded corners for them. It weighs also 60 grains and is of nickel-bronze (25% nickel). I can speak highly of this design. It is easily distinguishable (even in the dark and wearing a glove), cannot be fraudently altered to resemble any other coin, is very easy to coin and exceptionally economical in the waste of metal in cutting (while about 35% of the strips for sovereigns is returned to the melting house, only about 30% of the 5/cent Ceylon metal is so returned). No "marking" is necessary and the consumption of dies is very low - each pair having produced on an average 193,426 pieces during our last coinage. Of course their circulation is limited to Ceylon but we hear that they are very popular in the island and six million have been issued since their introduction in 1909. The only mechanical difficulty we had to face was in feeding the press but this was easily overcome and I should think your automatic hoppers would readily lend themselves to such a form.

I hope I have dealt with the main questions raised by your letter but if you want any other details pray write me again. As to cost of the coin you can judge better than I

can,



can, knowing as you will the prices of the several metals in the States, but I am sure you can assume that the manufacturing cost of the square coin will be less than that of a round coin of a similar weight. I need not warn you to keep the piece as thick as possible to save the dies.

I should much like to hear how you are getting on with the automatic balance we specially made for you. I have heard nothing except that it has been received.

In order to make the above explanations clearer I enclose herewith four specimens of each of the following:-
UGANDA ONE-CENT (45 Grains) Unmarked Blanks, Marked Blanks
and Finished Coins.

UGANDA HALF-CENT or NIGERIA ONE-TENTH PENNY (30 Grains),
Unmarked Blanks, Marked Blanks and Finished Coins
(Uganda and Nigeria).

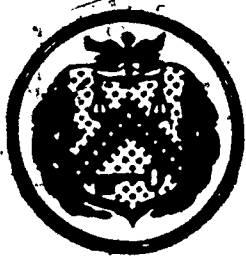
CEYLON ~~FIVE-~~ ^{FIVE-} CENT (60 Grains), Unmarked Blanks, (no marking required) and Finished Coins.

Together with the Indian Anna above mentioned.

Yours truly,

Edward Riggs

R. Clark Esq.



OFFICE OF
TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

April 7, 1913.

Honorable J. S. Williams,
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir: -

In compliance with your oral request, we submit the following opinion as to the advisability of installing in the Subtreasuries at New York and Chicago, the automatic weighing machine manufactured and in use at the Philadelphia Mint.

In order to determine the fitness of gold coin, that is to say whether it is current, uncurrent or light, each piece received by the Government is weighed by hand on a very delicately adjusted balance. This is a slow and laborious process, and, undoubtedly, a better method should be found. In the attempt of the Committee on Subtreasuries to accomplish a mechanical separation of the fit from the unfit gold coin, Dr. Andrew, then Assistant Secretary, was requested to authorize it to examine the Napier Automatic Machine which had been purchased by him during his incumbency as Director of the Mint, and which was then at the Philadelphia Mint. The necessary authority was granted and we proceeded to the Mint (on two occasions) and gave the machine a thorough try out. The test did not result satisfactorily, but while on the ground we found in operation a machine built at the Mint which would do exactly what was required. This machine is in every-day use, and

weighs either gold or silver with a degree of exactness that is almost uncanny, in every case throwing the fit and unfit coins into separate compartments. All of its parts are in plain view; it can be readily adjusted by an operator of comparatively little experience to weigh and separate at a difference of $1/5$ of a grain, and as it is made on the ground any part of the machine is "stock" and can be procured at a moment's notice. It combines all of the good qualities of the Napier (English) and Weiss (Austrian) machines, together with original ideas of the builder - ideas gained by experience and the study of various other machines.

We have not been successful in having the matter taken up since reporting to Dr. Andrew, but most heartily recommend the installation of a four beam machine in the Subtreasuries at New York and Chicago. The approximate cost of the machines will be \$800 each.

Very respectfully,

Geo. S. Ford
C. N. McGroarty



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Very respectfully,

Geo. East
C. N. McGroarty

3 Macdougall Alley,

Manhattan,

New York City, N.Y.,

Feb. 21st, 1913.

George E. Roberts, Esq.,

Director of the Mint,

Treasury Department,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Roberts:-

I have received your letter of the 19th enclosing formal voucher for me to sign, and asking me to return the same signed by me; the description of service reading, "Preparation of designs, obverse and reverse, for a new five-cent nickel piece and incidental expenses connected therewith, as per agreement dated Dec. 18th, 1912", which service is dated in voucher as of Jan. 6th, 1913.

I have signed the above and return it herewith, however, in order to comply with the request in your letter of the 19th, that I sign the enclosed voucher and let the matters of my actual cash disbursements and services required by the Hobbs Mfg. Co., and which you requested me to perform, and in writing you and sending the formal voucher, I am sure you will understand my position.

You will remember that on Sept. 16th, 1912, you wrote me that "the President gave him (Secretary MacVeagh) carte blanche

to go ahead, so I understand the matter is settled". It is true, of course, that there was no formal acceptance of the design until your letter of Oct. 18th, 1912, but is it not a fact that from long before Sept. 16th or Dec. 18th, 1912, you had frequently asked me to confer with the Hobbs. Manufacturing Co., Mr. Hobbs and others with the only idea of trying to make the design, and coin finally struck from the dies made from the design fit the coin-detecting machine and was it within our understanding when I was first requested to make the designs that I should include within my understanding such matters as conferring with the Hobbs people and giving so much of my time trying to meet their demands, when as far as I know their objections were not known to even you and Secretary MacVeagh? As early as the latter part of July, 1912, you spoke verbally to me of the objections certain slot-machine people were making, and in the latter part of August, 1912, you will remember you asked me to comply with their requirements as far as I could without injuring the design. It seems to me that it is just at this point where I began to make disbursements and render services, always, however, as I have said, at your request, in order to make the coin fit the machine.

Therefore I believe that the following disbursements and services (between July, 1912, and Dec. 18th, 1912) should be paid besides the amount stated in the voucher signed and returned herewith, and which is signed and returned on the understanding that it will not foreclose me on the question of my right to be heard further on the propriety and legality of the following itemized, as far as possible, statement of disbursements and services:

July 9 & 10, 1912,	Actual disbursements on trip to Washington (2 days) at Secretary MacVeagh's request,	\$25.00
July 16, 1912,	Actual disbursements of trip to see Mr. French at Secretary MacVeagh's request,	5.50
Sept. 8 - 9, 1912,	Actual disbursements on visit to Washington to see Secretary MacVeagh at Mr. Roberts' request,	24.75
Nov. 8, 1912,	Actual disbursements on trip to Washington to show Secretary MacVeagh and Mr. Roberts the electro-plate reductions as "sweated" together,	23.40
Dec. 15 - 16, 1912,	Actual disbursements on visit to Washington to see Secretary MacVeagh at Mr. Roberts' request,	26.00
	Services from about September 16th to Dec. 18th, 1912, in conferences with Mr. Hobbs, Mr. Reith, the inventor, and Mr. Carpenter, and attempting by remodelling etc., etc., to meet demands of Mr. Hobbs, all at the request of Mr. Roberts, covering in the aggregate 720 hours,	720.00
	N.B. I have figured my time at \$1.00 an hour, which I am confident any competent artist will say is very low indeed.	

\$824.65

I feel, further, that the following disbursements and services (between Dec. 18th, 1912 and Feb. 14th, 1913, inc.) should also be paid to me, and there is just about equal equity in this and the last. I have separated them here because in a way they might be legally considered on a slightly different basis:

Jan. 7, 1913,	Actual disbursements on trip to Philadelphia at Mr. Roberts' request,	7.50
Feb. 14, 1913,	Actual disbursements on trip to Washington at Secretary MacVeagh's request through Mr. Roberts,	50.00
	Services since Dec. 18, 1912, to and including Feb. 14, 1913, in conference with Mr. Hobbs, Mr. Reith, and making further attempts to satisfy the requirements of Mr. Hobbs and the others, all at the request of Mr. Roberts, covering in the aggregate 504 hours,	504.00
	N.B. Here again I have figured my time at \$1.00 an hour, and am as confident as possible that any competent artist would say is very low indeed.	
		<hr/> \$561.50

I am writing you thus fully because I feel it is quite possible you or Secretary MacVeagh really hardly appreciate how much time and actual cash disbursements, which especially as to my time in this case makes a seriously discouraging showing, when I confront the opportunities I have missed because of the criticism of the coin-detecting machine people, which I felt I have had to meet point by point because you and Secretary MacVeagh requested me to, and also because of the loyalty of ordinary human nature.

Thanking you for your letter of the 19th inst., and trusting I may hear from you in the very near future,

Yours very truly,

3 Macdougall Alley,

New York City.

Feb. 26th, 1913.

George E. Roberts, Esq.,

Director of the Mint,

Treasury Department,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Roberts:-

Your letter of the 29th inst. reached me yesterday, and I am answering it with all possible haste. I shall try to do so by taking up each of the paragraphs in order as they appear in your letter.

(1) You say you are embarrassed by my bill for expenses and services running back of January 6th, 1913, which was the date when the dies were given "a successful test". I take it here you refer to your letter to me of December 18th, 1912, which letter reads in part "you are authorized to complete and perfect the designs, x x x x x x x x, and upon the completion of the same and the final acceptance of the models, and after a successful working test of the dies, you will be paid as full compensation for the same and for your incidental expenses in connection the sum of \$2,500." I don't feel myself that it is reasonable to take these last words as including any services or incidental expenses except those necessary to complete the "models", which was really a very simple thing for me to do.

unless the Hobbs people had kept at me all the time and so I had been required not only to "complete the models", but also to make all kinds of experiments in trying to satisfy the Hobbs people, and really, as it seems to me, still at your request - I knew the Hobbs people had been coming in continuously up to before December 18th, 1912, and I had met them as far as I could at your written or spoken request. If, however, you had no knowledge of my continued efforts to meet the Hobbs' people demands made between December 18th, 1912, and January 6th, 1913, and did not expect me to make these efforts, then I can see how I have worked, for no one is liable as to this particular time.

Quite beyond this of course, however, are my claims for disbursements and services before December 18th, 1912, and the part of my second claim at least from January 7th to February 14th, 1913.

(2) Taking up the third paragraph of your letter, I do remember that on December 15th, 1912, when I was in Washington you spoke of the subject of my compensation and my recollection of what was agreed upon is the same as yours, except that I did not understand that the further disbursements made and services to be rendered by me included such a heart-breaking series of conferences and attempts to satisfy the Hobbs people between December 18th, 1912, and January 6th, 1913, and even as late as February 14th last. These services and disbursements all practically made necessary by the Hobbs people and performed after December 18th, 1912, could not very well have been even considered in our conversation, because as I understood the formal approval in your letter of December 18th, 1912, (not October 18th, 1912 as erroneously stated in my last letter later)

did not in any way contemplate any further things to be done by me except completing models; furthermore, I cannot see how the formal approval (December 18th, 1912) contemplates in any way that the \$2,500.00 there mentioned shall cover my time or expenses in preparing the dies.

In paragraph 5 of your letter (top of p.2) you say you understood at the time of our speaking, December 15-16-, 1912, that the \$2500.00 should cover everything to date "and so much more as would be necessary to prepare the dies for the successful working test". I must say I cannot see just how the formal approval, December 18th, 1913, contains or implies any such conclusion as seems so plain to you - it's just a question of seeing things differently, and no fault on either side.

Further in paragraph 5 of your letter (top p.2) you write that if I had been expected to be paid further for my efforts to adapt the coin to the machine, I should have spoken of it to you - naturally never a thought of such a thing came into my mind for what else could I infer from your conversation than that it meant an approval by the Secretary and not an approval to be subject to the Hobbs' people further criticism.

In making the same kind of argument in the very last sentence of this paragraph, my answer is exactly the same, how could I have had in my mind possibilities that our very conference itself excluded.

Finally I trust I have not made my letter too long. If my arguments do not alter yours or Secretary MacVeagh's opinions as

G.E.R. -4-

stated in your letter, will you not please send me a voucher for such further compensation as you think I am entitled to, explained in the next to the last paragraph of your letter; I will then return it signed.

I hope that Secretary MacVeagh may have an opportunity to look over these papers.

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

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With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

Good Features of the Accounting System.

Memorandum for the Treasurer.

1. Economy of operation, by concentrating the bookkeeping at Washington, and thereby reducing the expense of the various Sub-Treasuries to a minimum.
2. All moneys for disbursement either by Warrant or Disbursing Officers check will be paid at Washington, Depositary Banks, and the various Sub-Treasuries being directed to forward all such paid obligations to the Treasurer of the United States daily, which obviously makes the most rapid clearance possible, and prevents such checks and warrants being used repeatedly for exchange and remaining outstanding indefinitely.
3. Much complaint has been made to the Department on account of the petty charges for cashing Pension Checks:- this new system tends to prevent Depositary Banks from making any charge in cashing Government obligations, thus protecting in a measure the pensioner.
4. Banks are immediately reimbursed for any outlay of cash in excess of revenues deposited with them upon application to this Office by wire or otherwise; thus balances left with Depositary Banks is in effect utilized and becomes active, each Bank doing its part as Financial Agent of the Government, as the law originally intended. The Banks seem to be pleased, so far, with the system.
5. Big business can only be successfully operated by utilizing the best known methods to minimize cost and bring together facts and conditions so that the management can tell at a glance how the business stands. This new Accounting System is intended to so condense the Treasury operations, that the

5. Continued.

Secretary and the Treasurer will have before them at all times the data showing the revenues and disbursements of the Government, and enable them to make any changes they may see fit.

6. Under the old system there was a tendency to concentrate the revenues at New York, compelling disbursements through that Office, often at expense and great inconvenience to the payee. And under the new system the revenues are deposited where the payments are made agreeable to the Government Creditor.

7. There is nothing complicated in the system, it is just a big job and naturally some friction has arisen in putting it into operation, but with each day conditions are improving, and I have been unable to find any criticism that is tenable. On the contrary, the parties interested - the Disbursing Officers and Banks - unite in praising it.

8. I beg to submit herewith a circular prepared by Secretary McVey, of date February twenty-one, 1913, being an extract from the Congressional Record of February twenty-second, bearing on the subject of the new Accounting System in answer to a resolution introduced in the Senate by Senator Poindexter which goes into the details of the System and which records my views on the subject. I believe in the System, and am ready to stand Sponsor for it, in so far as the Treasurers Office was concerned in its adoption, being Assistant Treasurer at the time. I investigated every feature of the System and submitted my views to your predecessor, Mr. Thompson, who unqualifiedly endorsed the scheme.

Ralph C. Penne

DEPOSIT OF PUBLIC MONEYS IN NATIONAL BANKS.

[Extract from the Congressional Record of February 22, 1913.]

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, in response to a resolution of the 11th instant, information relative to the order directing certain changes in the method of handling receipts and disbursements of the Government. The communication and accompanying papers will be printed and referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and the communication will be ordered printed in the RECORD.

The communication is as follows:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, February 21, 1913.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

SIR: By direction of the President, I have the honor to make reply to the inquiry contained in the resolution of the Senate agreed to February 11, 1913, concerning the order which went into effect on February 1, directing certain changes in the methods of handling the receipts and disbursements of the Government.

Before the establishment of the national banking system in 1863, the Government's fiscal machinery consisted principally of the Treasury and the Subtreasuries. A predominating feature of this system, still in part prevailing, is that it requires the use of money as distinguished from checks in the daily fiscal operations of the Government; that is to say, an Assistant Treasurer can only issue certificates of deposit to collection officers upon the receipt of currency—can only accept their collections in actual money; and checks drawn on the Subtreasuries are paid in actual money.

The national bank act (sec. 5153, Rev. Stat.) provided that all national banks, when designated as depositaries by the Secretary of the Treasury, shall be the financial agents of the Government; and in them may be deposited the revenues "except receipts from customs." So that since 1863 all revenues except from customs could be and mainly have been deposited in banks like the funds of private persons, and those of State, municipal, and other governments. Congress removed the restriction as to customs by an act approved March 4, 1907, entitled "An act to amend the national bank act and for other purposes", and thus abolished an exception that had ceased to have any use and had become a mere survival. Under the above provision of the national bank act it has been the practice for many years to have the banks receive internal-revenue taxes and transmit them to the Subtreasuries. In the year 1870—in order to meet the public convenience and to conform to general business customs—collectors of internal revenue began to take checks in payment of internal revenue; but did so at their personal risk. When, at the request of the Treasury Department, this form of payment was made legal by the act of March 2, 1911, the practice had already become universal as to internal revenue. Up to that time, however, customs payments were still made in currency—though some practical mitigations of this cumbersome practice had in the course of the years been introduced. Since the passage of the act of 1911, both customs and internal revenue are paid by check. But, as stated, notwithstanding the present

legal practice of receiving checks in payment of customs and internal revenue, these checks must be cashed before the proceeds can be deposited in the Subtreasuries. In all Subtreasury cities except Cincinnati and Philadelphia this is done through the agency of the clearing house.

As the daily payments of the Government are practically equal to its daily income, the desirability of a method whereby the receipts and payments shall clear each other is apparent; and the method to be complete should bring about this clearing before the point is reached of converting the checks into currency in the Subtreasuries. The new plan, regarding which the Senate has made inquiry, is designed to accomplish this result, and will accomplish it as a matter of course.

Its operation can not result in an automatic accumulation of Government funds in national-bank depositaries, for there are the restrictive regulations which are applied under section 5153 of the Revised Statutes to national banks holding Government funds. Under these restrictions every national-bank depositary is required to have on deposit with the Treasurer of the United States security in the form of bonds to the full amount of the authorized balance the Government has with the bank. I say authorized balance, because the limit of the deposits in each bank is fixed by the Treasury Department and usually continues at one amount for a considerable time; and under the new plan these strictly limited amounts, secured by bonds, will be dependent upon the amount of the daily business done by the bank for the Government. With special exceptions these bonds have been either Government bonds or bonds for which the Government is financially responsible. The bank is permitted to hold the amount of its authorized deposit with which to transact the Government's business, but must transfer immediately all amounts in excess of this authorized balance from whatever source received. The department directs these transfers under standing instructions to the points where funds are needed for payments. Under this system the depositary banks have for years handled the entire income from internal revenue without any accumulation of funds in the banks in excess of their authorized balances. Last year internal-revenue receipts exceeded the income from customs, amounting to \$321,612,199.

Under the new plan customs receipts are to be handled in the same manner as the internal revenues—under the excellent and progressive law of March 4, 1907; and, of course, with the restrictions and limitations on the banks unchanged.

Moreover, in times like the present, when the Government's income and outgo practically offset each other, it is hardly necessary to take seriously the fear that the deposits in New York banks will be increased by hundreds of millions. Before you can deposit hundreds of millions you must have the money.

Why this law of 1907 was not availed of at once I do not know. I authorized the preparation of plans to put it into effect as soon as I heard of it, which was about September 1 of last year.

Instead of the authorized balances held by banks being more or less inactive as they have been in the past, a feature of the new plan provides that the banks shall pay the checks of disbursing officers which are now drawn on the Treasurer of the United States instead of on the banks or Subtreasuries and

charge the same to the account of the Treasurer, in whose name the funds in the bank are deposited. Section 3593 of the Revised Statutes provides that "All public moneys paid into any depository shall be subject to the draft of the Treasurer of the United States, drawn agreeably to appropriations made by law." Section 3620 of the Revised Statutes, authorizes disbursing officers to keep their accounts with the Treasurer of the United States and with Assistant Treasurers. The accounts or credits of all disbursing officers have accordingly now been placed with the Treasurer of the United States, as authorized. No balances are held in any banks to the credit of disbursing officers; but all Government moneys in the banks are to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States. This feature of the new plan makes it possible for the first time for the Treasury to have a far more exact daily knowledge of the financial accounts of the Government; for against the credit given each disbursing officer with the Treasurer of the United States is charged the checks drawn by the disbursing officer and paid by the depository banks and Subtreasuries and sent daily to the Treasury. The banks making these payments for the Government out of their authorized balance are furnished daily with Government deposits sufficient to restore the balance to its fixed amount. In this way, as previously stated, the daily income will in the banks meet and clear the daily expenses of the Government, and only the excess of income over disbursements will be deposited in currency with the Subtreasuries.

Another advantage of the new plan which is of peculiar importance is the added convenience to the creditors of the Government. Checks drawn on the Treasurer of the United States are now good at par wherever they may be presented, since any depository will pay them. Particularly will this benefit pensioners. Heretofore in a great many cases exchange has been charged pensioners by banks in cashing their checks because they were payable only at Subtreasuries or the Treasury. The new plan for pension payments, approved by Congress August 17, 1912, became effective February 1, and was the controlling reason for fixing that date for making the entire change.

The purpose, therefore, of the new system is to so handle the Government's income as to meet its payments with the same convenience to its creditors and with the same par values that are customary in the best regulated private business, and so that only the excess of Government receipts shall find its way into the Treasury or Subtreasuries.

One of the necessary requirements of the plan is the distribution of the revenues to the banks in just the proper amounts to keep their authorized balances filled. Another requirement of the plan is to make those authorized balances suited to the amount and character of the business done; that is to say, to give them funds just in proportion to the payments they make for the Government. Up to the present time, under the new system, the bank balances have still been replenished by transfers direct from the Subtreasuries. The feature of depositing customs receipts direct with the banks—which has not yet been begun in the Subtreasury cities, and is therefore not yet in full operation—will obviate much of the necessity for these trans-

fers. These deposits, however, will not exceed the payments made by the banks.

It may be stated that in the brief trial the new plan has had it is working satisfactorily. The department has found itself able to handle the accounts and take care of all of the disbursements throughout the country without serious hitch. Of course, in making such a comprehensive change, it must be expected that there will be details to adjust, all of which require a little time. Meanwhile the banks throughout the country have cooperated cordially.

The necessity under the new plan of having additional depository banks in the Subtreasury cities made necessary an adjustment of the bank accounts in general. This resulted in net increased deposits being made amounting to a total of \$363,000. While no depositories were discontinued, there has been ordered withdrawn from existing depositories a total of \$6,090,000; there has been added in new depositories \$6,453,000, making, as stated, a total increase in banks of \$363,000. Of this sum \$4,963,000 has been placed in the nine Subtreasury cities. The total amount in banks is approximately \$50,000,000; but, as the reductions ordered are to take place on March 1 this amount will be cut down to approximately \$46,000,000 at that time. Security has been required to the full amount of the deposits, consisting of United States bonds, District of Columbia, Porto Rico, Hawaiian, Philippine, Philippine Railway, and Manila Railway bonds. No interest is or ever has been charged on these deposits, as they constitute the active accounts of the Government upon which no interest charge is contemplated by law.

In making new depositories it has been specified to each that the balances would be adjusted from time to time to meet the Government needs.

The total payments made by the Subtreasuries during the last fiscal year, which indicates also the amount of disbursing officers' accounts during that time, is as follows:

Baltimore	\$14,781,760.03
Boston	32,636,655.40
Chicago	49,946,150.02
Cincinnati	18,923,771.38
New Orleans	16,841,291.95
New York	276,038,159.92
Philadelphia	34,702,796.95
San Francisco	43,436,595.97
St. Louis	33,890,565.62
Washington	81,854,121.97
Total	603,051,869.21

There is transmitted a list of the depository banks with their balances on December 31; a list of the depositories added on account of the new system, and the amount of their balances; and a list of the banks holding inactive accounts upon which interest is paid to the Government. The postal savings funds are handled by the Post Office Department, and that feature of the resolution has been referred to the Postmaster General.

Respectfully,

FRANKLIN MACVEAGH,
Secretary.